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JZS
J.F.1

THE

Weekly Reporter:

APPELLATE HIGH COURT.

CONTAINING

ONS OF THE APPELLATE HIGH COURT IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, viz., IN CIVIL, 'ENUE, AND CRIMINAL CASES, AS WELL AS IN CASES REFERRED BY THE MOFUSSIL SMALL CAUSE COURTS AND THE RECORDERS' COURTS; TOGETHER WITH RULES, AND THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CIRCULAR ORDERS ISSUED BY THE HIGH COURT; ALSO DECISIONS OF HER MAJESTY'S PRIVY COUNCIL IN CASES HEARD IN APPEAL FROM COURTS OF BRITISH INDIA.

By D. SUTHERLAND.

VOLUME XV.

Calcutta:
RE-PRINTED BY D. E. CRANENBURGH,
AT HIS LAW-PUBLISHING PRESS,
NO. 57, BOW BAZAR STREET.

1892.

INDEX

(CIVIL RULINGS).

A.

ABETMENT.

The Appellate Court to which it is subordinate may sanction the prosecution of an offence against a Court of first instance, even if the offence is —— ... 352

ACCRETION.

(1) Lands annexed to a jote by gradual —— within the meaning of Section 4, Regulation XI. of 1825, are held by the jotedar on the same principle as he holds the parent estate 87

(2) A mowrussee jotedar having a right of occupancy has a right to lands accreting to his jote 149

See Ownership (1)

ACT VIII. OF 1835.

See Sale (1) (9)

ACT II. OF 1855.

Section 24 does not warrant a vakeel's exclusion from the witness-box, though it may excuse his answering questions relating to communications between him and his client 340

ACT III. OF 1857.

Section 14. *See Right of Suit* (4)

ACT XXXV. OF 1858.

A Court cannot, under ——, make over charge of the property and person of an alleged lunatic to a guardian until it has adjudged him to be of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs ... 259

ACT XL. OF 1858.

Section 3. *See Jurisdiction* (30)
Section 7. *See Manager* (1)
Section 21. *See Appeal* (10)
Section 26. *See Majority* (1)
See Certificate (3)
See Civil Court (1)
See Jurisdiction (41)

ACT VIII. OF 1859.

(1) For legal possession under Section 224, it is essential that all the requirements of the Section be carried out 99

(2) The terms of Section 359 should be complied with by Appellate Courts where the facts of a case are complicated 131

ACT VIII. OF 1859—*(Continued)*.

(3) The great object of the Procedure Code in fixing a day for the hearing of a case is that the parties may be confronted together. The Court commits no error in refusing to send subsequently for documents not produced at the proper time, if not satisfied that they are necessary 150

(4) A plaintiff starts his case sufficiently, if, seeking under Section 246 to set aside an attachment and sale, he shows that a deed of sale has been executed in his favor by the judgment-debtors, and that consideration-money has passed and possession been given. The onus is in the defendant if he alleges a collusive sale... ... 155

(5) Where a judgment-debtor objects under Section 245 that, as the original decree was passed against her mother, the property, being inherited by her from her father, cannot be sold in execution: HELD that defendant so intervening should be held to be a third party, and a decision under that Section is not appealable to the Judge 163

(6) HELD (Mitter, J., *dubitante*) that a suit claiming property by a title on inheritance is barred by Sections 2 and 7 where plaintiff's claim on a title derived by gift has already been adjudicated 168

(7) A vakeel may be a "duly authorized agent" within the meaning of Section 301 198

(8) A judgment-debtor refusing to place at the Court's disposal whatever property he has, though it be a stipend or annuity, cannot ask for his discharge under Section 273 ... 205

(9) Where a party, alleging that property attached in execution was not hers, and that she had had no notice of either suit or decree, makes an application for a re-hearing under Section 119 after the time allowed, she is entitled to a re-hearing if her plea is made out 210

(10) A case should not be thrown out by the Lower Appellate on a technical objection such as that the

ACT VIII. OF 1859—*(Continued)*.

plaint had not been filed by a recognized agent within the meaning of Section 17, when the merits of the case are not affected ... 245

(11) The order dismissing on default an intervenor's application under Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure, is of equal force with a finding on the merits after investigation ... 311

(12) No appeal lies from an order on an application under Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure, which can only be contested by a regular suit ... 339

(13) The object of Section 73 is to prevent needless litigation, and there are cases, such as making plaintiff's co-parceners defendants, when a Judge should exercise the discretion given him by that Section, even if plaintiff omits to ask him to do so 432

(14) A decree-holder may, under Section 210, follow his deceased judgment-debtor's property in the hands of the parties in possession, notwithstanding a certificate under Act XXVII. of 1869 has been obtained by a third party 475

(15) The true interpretation of Section 355 given 507

(16) Where a decree makes a party liable who is not liable, the error affects the merits within the meaning of Section 350 ... 534

Chapter VI. *See Arbitration Award* (1)
Section 2. *See Res Adjudicata* (2)
Section 5. *See Jurisdiction* (23)
Section 7. *See Res Adjudicata* (4)
Section 10. *See Mesne Profits* (9)
Section 69. *See Notice* (1)
Section 73. *See Corporate Body* (2) *See Intervention* (1) *See Third Party* (1)
Section 97. *See Pleadings* (1)
Section 108. *See Sale* (1)
Sections 111 & 139. *See Issues* (1)
Section 119. *See Ex parte* (2)
Sections 119 and 376. *See Review* (3)
Sections 138 and 355. *See Cazee's Book* (1)
Section 141. *See Issues* (2)
Section 159. *See Procedure* (3)
Section 170. *See Procedure* (7)
Section 180. *See Evidence* (11)
Section 189. *See Costs* (1) *See Decree* (4)
Section 197. *See Mesne Profits* (3)
Sections 201 & 212. *See Maintenance* (2)
Section 204. *See Bond* (1) *See Execution* (21)
Sections 205, 237. *See Decree* (1)
Section 206. *See Execution* (2)
Section 207. *See Joint Decree* (1)
Section 208. *See Assignee* (1) *See Set-off* (1)
Section 209. *See Set-off* (2)
Section 224. *See Limitation* (13)

ACT VIII. OF 1859—*(Concluded)*.

Section 230. *See Possession* (2) *See Procedure* (4)
Sections 230 and 231. *See Jurisdiction* (25)
Section 243. *See Act XX. of 1866* (2) *See Execution* (13) *See Lien* (2)
Section 246. *See Cause of Action* (4) *See Onus Probandi* (7)
Section 251. *See Sale* (10)
Section 273. *See Insolvency* (1)
Section 287. *See Decree* (9)
Section 339. *See Liability* (4)
Section 347. *See Appeal* (2)
Section 348. *See Appeal* (6) *See Cross-Appeal* (1) *See Objections* (1)
Section 350. *See Special Appeal* (5)
Section 354. *See Procedure* (5) (10)
Sections 354-357. *See Procedure* (9)
Section 359. *See Appellate Court* (2)
Section 362. *See Jurisdiction* (42)

ACT X. OF 1859.

(1) The doctrine laid down by Division Bench at page 147 of the special number of the Weekly Reporter called in question ... 58

(2) A complaint or proceeding under Section 145 is not a suit within the meaning of Section 23, Clause 7, and is not appealable to the Zillah Judge under Section 160 ... 136

(3) The provision of Act X. of 1859, requiring every agreement as to division or distribution of rent to be in writing, applies only to division or distribution made after the Act came into operation 321

(4) Under Section 105, a Court has power only to seize and sell what at the time is the property of the judgment-debtor. The purchaser at the sale in execution of a decree against persons who at the time ceased to have any interest in the property takes nothing ... 341

(5) To maintain a suit under Section 143, plaintiff must prove that defendant, in making the distress, is a mere trespasser without any reasonable foundation for the claim set up ... 543

(6) A rule calling on a judgment-debtor to show cause why a Collector's order in appeal, reversing a Deputy Collector's order in execution, should not be set aside, was discharged with costs, because, apart from the Collector's having no jurisdiction, the Deputy Collector's order was a violation of Section 92 551

Section 4. *See Enhancement* (4) (5)
Section 6. *See Right of Occupancy* (2)
Section 13. *See Rent-suit* (2)
Section 17, Clause 1. *See Enhancement* (9)
Section 19. *See Notice* (8)

ACT X. OF 1859—*(Continued)*.
Section 23, Clause 1. *See Resumption* (1)
Section 23, Clauses 4 and 5. *See Jurisdiction* (13)
Section 23. *See Jurisdiction* (35)
Section 24. *See Jurisdiction* (26)
Section 27. *See Partition* (2) *See Registration* (2) *See Tenure* (1)
Section 32. *See Limitation* (17)
Section 77. *See High Court* (3)
Section 104. *See Irregularity* (1)
Section 108. *See Rent-Suit* (7)

ACT XI. OF 1859.
A sale under —— can only be for arrears of Government revenue; otherwise the sale is void, and the title given by the sale-certificate defective ... 141
Sections 11 and 12. *See Jurisdiction* (13)
Section 33. *See Sale* (5)
Section 37. *See Purchaser* (1) (2)

ACT XIV. OF 1859.
In cases under Section 15, the Court may give costs either under Section 1 of the rules passed by the High Court under Act XX. of 1865, or according to Section 8 of those rules ... 268
Clause 13, Section 1. *See Limitation* (14)
Clause 16, Section 1. *See Right of worship* (1)
Section 14. *See Limitation* (7)
Section 15. *See Ejectment* (1)
See Limitation (2)
Section 20. *See Execution* (11)
See Proceedings (2)

ACT XXVII. OF 1860.
Section 5. *See Jurisdiction* (12)

ACT XXIII. OF 1861.
Section 7 does not apply to a case where a decree-holder applies for execution a few days before the expiry of the term of 3 years, and neglects to pay tullubana, though allowed 5 days to do so ... 473
Section 8. *See Bond* (1) *See Insolvency* (1)
Section 10. *See Execution* (18)
Section 11. *See Execution* (7)
Section 15. *See Maintenance* (2)
Section 23. *See Damages* (2)
Section 27. *See Bond* (2) *See Jurisdiction* (31) *See Title* (3)
Section 35. *See Appeal* (8)
See Limitation (16)

ACT XXV. OF 1861.
Where a Magistrate, proceeding under Chapter XX., removes a bridge, a suit will not lie for a naked declaration of right, without any consequential relief, against parties only interested in having put the Magistrate in motion ... 293
See Certificate (5)

ACT VI. (B. C.) OF 1862.
An applicant under Section 10 must be the proprietor of the estate, and not a shareholder only in the proprietary body ... 522
Section 10. *See Jurisdiction* (22)
See Measurement (3)
Section 20. *See Collector* (1)
See Deposit (1)
See Measurement (1)

ACT XVI. OF 1864.
Section 14 only contemplates cases in which no fixed or definite value is stated in the deed creating the interest ... 331
Sections 13 and 16. *See Registration* (3)

ACT VIII. (B. C.) OF 1865.
Where a tenure is sold under——, the purchase cannot be set aside unless the decree and sale are shown to have been fraudulent, and the purchaser to have been a party to, or to have had notice of, the fraud... 365
Section 4. *See Rent Suit* (8)
Section 13. *See Jurisdiction* (1)
See Incumbrance (2) (3)
See Sale (5) (7)
See Shareholder (1)

ACT XI. OF 1865.
Where an application being made to a Small Cause Court Judge to set aside an *ex-parte* decree, the applicant, not being summoned in due form, is not present on the day fixed for his examination, his application should not be rejected in his absence, and the Judge is bound to hear a second application under Section 21 —— ... 402
Section 6. *See Damages* (2)
See Special Appeal (2)
Section 21. *See New Trial* (2)

ACT I. OF 1866.
Section 2. *See Ferry* (1)

ACT XX. OF 1866.
(1) Sections 52 to 54 contemplate money-bonds only. A bond for delivery of paddy without specification of money-value cannot be summarily enforced under Section 53 ... 369
(2) Section 55 applies to a case where the Lower Appellate Court passes a decree on a specially registered bond; and the High Court may make an order under Section 243, Code of Civil Procedure, appointing a receiver or giving the judgment-debtor opportunity to pay off the decree by mortgage of the estate... 477
Section 16. *See Mookhtear* (1)
Section 17. *See Registration* (4) (8)
Section 66, Clause 3. *See Evidence* (10)
Section 84. *See Registration* (5)

ACT XXVI. OF 1867.
See Court Fees Act (1)
ACT XVI. OF 1868.
See Jurisdiction (4) (43)
ACT VIII. (B. C.) OF 1869.
See Jurisdiction (20)
See Notice (8)
ACT XVIII. OF 1869
Allows the Civil Court to receive the proper stamp, not only in cases of insufficiency, but also where documents have not been stamped at all ... 116
ACT III. OF 1870.
Sections 2 and 5. *See Transfer* (1)
ACT VII. OF 1870.
See Stamp (1)
ACT VI. OF 1871.
Sections 26 and 27. *See Jurisdiction* (43)
ADMISSION.
(1) An —— in a verified petition by an intervenor in an Act X. suit, and repeated in a verified plaint filed by him in a regular suit, is binding in a subsequent suit on the party who made it ... 437
(2) A plaintiff abandoning his own case and falling back on the ——s of the defendant must take those ——s as they stand in their entirety ... 451
See Evidence (10)
ADOPTION.
(1) The ceremonies on occasion of —— in the superior classes are not necessary in —— by a Sudra. The mere giving and taking is sufficient where the adopted son is a member of the family ... 300
(2) An——is not invalidated by the mere fact of the adoptive father being a minor if he has attained years of discretion. Such —— is not attended by any civil disability ... 548
See Hindoo Law (6)
AGENT.
(1) Authority to an —— to purchase does not imply authority to sell; and a principal's not questioning his ——'s right to sell is no proof of his consent to the exercise of such right ... 317
(2) An ——'s right of suit, if not questioned in the initial stage of a suit, cannot be raised in special appeal 392
See Act VIII. of 1859 (16)
See Corporate Body (1)
See Evidence (5)
AGREEMENT.
An ekrar given to a lender by a borrower of money, agreeing to execute a conveyance of certain landed property, is an —— the registration of which is optional, and may be given in evidence in a suit for specific performance ... 354
ALIENATION.
See Hindoo Law (3)
See Hindoo Widow (2)
AMULNAMAH.
The proprietors of a certain holding having refused Government terms of settlement, a farming settlement was made with defendant, who undertook to confirm all ——s granted by the zemindars. Plaintiff was a ryot without a right of occupancy, but had got an ——, and he sued for a pottah at rate fixed in the ——.
HELD that the —— formed the basis of a special contract between the parties, and took their case out of the purview of Sections 5 and 8 of the Rent Law; and by its terms defendant was bound to give plaintiff a pottah on fair and equitable rates. 4
ANALOGOUS CASES.
Where both the parties and subject-matter are different, a Judge should not, without the consent of the parties, allow his judgment in one case to govern his decision in another ... 34
ANCESTRAL PROPERTY.
See Hindoo Widow (1)
See Partition (1)
APPEAL.
(1) Where defendants' interests were not identical, and the different causes involved were separately tried, it was held that an —— by the defendants from the decision in one of the suits valued at Rs. 149 did not lie to the High Court ... 31
(2) Where application is made for the re-admission of an —— under Section 347, Act VIII., 1859, the Judge is bound to consider the reasons for re-admission ... 8
(3) The purchaser of plaintiff's rights after a suit has been dismissed cannot —— against the order of dismissal without joining the original plaintiffs as appellants ... 10
(4) Where plaintiff's interest has been transferred with his assent, and the written defence is afterwards put in without demur, the original plaintiff need not be associated with the transferree in an appeal by the latter ... 121
(5) The High Court's calling up an —— from the Court below and trying it as a regular —— does not entitle the parties to —— directly to the High Court in execution-proceedings ... 164
(6) In a suit to establish a title to a share of an estate, where no question of the share to be awarded is raised before

PPEAL—*(Continued).*

the Lower Appellate Court by the defendant under Section 348, Code of Civil Procedure, that Court cannot interfere with the decision... 227

(7) A Judge is bound to go into all matters raised before him in an ——, even if appellant appears to have made a false statement, and seeks to palm off a spurious document 243

(8) Where four suits for arrears of rent, no question of title being involved, were decided by the Deputy Collector, and it was found in special —— that the Judge had no jurisdiction, and that the time for —— had elapsed, the High Court allowed the appellant 30 days to —— to the Collector ... 426

(9) The purchaser of a right of —— can only obtain a status by making the party who had the right originally a party to the —— ... 485

(10) The order of a Judge under Section 21, Act XL. of 1858, is appealable under Section 28, whether it withdraws a certificate or not ... 493

(11) Where a Moonsiff acts without jurisdiction, the question may be the subject of an —— to the Appellate Court of the district ... 556

See Act VIII. of 1859 (10) (12)
See Act X. of 1859 (2)
See Consolidation (1)
See Execution (21)
See Ex-parte Judgment (1)
See Intervention (1)
See Limitation (12) (16)
See Stamp (4)

PPELLATE COURT.

(1) In a case involving issues of fact, where the —— agrees with the conclusions of the Court below, it is not obliged to state in detail the reasons in which it concurs ... 54

(2) Section 359, Code of Civil Procedure, requires an —— to set down distinctly the point or points for decision, and to record the reasons of its decisions on each point ... 130

(3) ——s ought not to interfere with the result of a local inquiry, except upon very clearly defined and sufficient grounds ... 423

See Jurisdiction (29)

PPLICATION.

An —— for the sale of a tenure, where the right of sale is specially reserved with a view to the realization of rent, is quite distinct from a suit ... 560

See Limitation (16)

ARBITRATION AWARD.

(1) An —— not made on a reference by all the parties to the suit cannot be converted into a final decree under Chapter VI., Act VIII. of 1859, though it is evidence against any party agreeing to the reference ... 427

(2) A Moonsiff cannot entertain an application and pass an order on the enforcement of an —— relating to the determination of rent ... 556

ARBITRATOR.

(1) An —— has full power to retract his resignation of office before it is accepted ... 37

(2) A plaintiff's revocation of his consent to arbitration does not put an end to the ——s' power ... 331

See Jurisdiction (18)

ARREARS OF RENT.

(1) Where —— become due, a zemindar is not bound to look beyond his books for the party liable, except when he has recognized other persons as his tenants ... 264

(2) Where neither Hindoo widow nor reversioner chooses to pay the —— fallen due, the tenure, if sold for such ——, passes to the purchaser *ib.*

See Enhancement (3)
See Incumbrance (1)
See Jurisdiction (40)
See Regulation VIII. of 1819 (1)

ARREARS OF REVENUE.

See Purchaser (1)

ASSESSMENT.

See Lakheraj (3)

ASSIGNEE.

A party to a suit may enforce any decree he may get, as a matter of right; but an —— of such decree can only do so after obtaining the Court's permission ... 283

See Right of Suit.

ASSIGNMENT.

Where the rents of lands admittedly in possession of D are recoverable under an —— from the registered tenant C, the suit should proceed against both ... 107

ATTACHMENT.

(1) Where landed property is attached in execution of a decree, the party attaching is bound by a lease obtained for it prior to his —— ... 75

(2) The judgment of one judgment-creditor who has secured —— must be satisfied before the proceeds can be available in satisfaction of a later ——by another creditor ... 158

(3) The mere fact of —— does not destroy judgment-debtor's right in the property ... *ib.*

ATTACHMENT—*(Continued).*

(4) The striking off of the execution-case does not do away with an —— once made, unless the —— is expressly abandoned ... 222

See Conveyance (2)
See Decree (1)
See Execution (10)
See Insolvent (1)
See Judgment-debtor (2)
See Jurisdiction (19)

AUCTION-PURCHASER.
See Right of Suit (7)

B.

BALANCE.
See Partnership (1)

BENAMEE.

(1) In —— purchase in India, the criterion of beneficial ownership is the source from which the purchase-money is derived ... 12

(2) Registration of a deed does not affect the question of *bona fides*, nor is a conveyance *bonâ fide* because there is proof of its execution and the statement of witnesses unacquainted with the circumstances; but the circumstances and probabilities are to be carefully weighed ... 15

(3) The purchase of property from a wife as ostensible owner, where the husband consents to the sale and the transaction is *bonâ fide* on part of purchaser, is good, even if the property is the husband's ... 19

See Creditor (1)
See Sale (8)

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP.
See Benamee (1)

BONA FIDES.

(1) Where the first Court found decree-holder's proceedings *bonâ fide*, and the Lower Court found otherwise, the High Court held itself bound to restore the first Court's judgment 162

(2) Honesty and —— must be presumed in all cases in the absence of evidence to the contrary, as well in applications for execution as where a party's conduct has to be dealt with by a Court of Justice ... 203

(3) Where a conveyance is effected under a fraudulent arrangement whereby nothing is sold, —— on the part of the purchaser cannot make a title in his vendor ... 308

See Benamee (2) (3)
See Execution (1) (5) (6) (8) (14)
See Sale (8)

BOND.

(1) A —— taken by the Court as security under Section 8, Act XXIII. of 1861, cannot be enforced under Section 204, Act VIII. of 1859 ... 21

(2) Where the original suit was for money on a ——, the fact of its having been decided on a solehnamah by which the creditor obtained land in lieu of money does not change the nature of the suit with reference to Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861 ... 65

(3) Where a —— stipulates that, if the time fixed for re-payment of the money borrowed was exceeded, the —— should be enforced as a registered deed: HELD that the rate of interest is not a question of discretion, but must be paid at the rate stipulated 396

See Act XX. of 1866 (1)
See Cause of Action (5)
See Declaratory Suit (3)
See Interest (2)
See Minor (1)
See Registration (4)
See Special Appeal (7)
See Surety (3)

BOUNDARY.

To ascertain the extent of land actually leased, the boundaries mentioned in the lease should be looked to, and not the estimated area ... 394

See Evidence (15)
See Lessee (1)
See Possession (6)

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

(1) Where P, after depositing earnest-money for the purchase of land from D, does not complete the purchase, he is bound to show that he has an equitable right to have back the earnest-money, and that, if it had not been deposited, D might have sued for damages ... 41

(2) Where defendants having sold their zemindary, the Commissioner of Revenue ordered that certain churs which had been reserved, and which having been in possession of Government were under temporary settlement with defendants, should be settled with the purchasers: HELD that the defendants should call in question the Commissioner's decision; and that the admission of their liability to re-pay the premium received from plaintiffs on granting a lease of the churs putting an end to claim for damages for —— constitutes a fresh cause of action ... 298

(3) On a —— of sale, the vendor can recover the difference between the price contracted for, and that at which the goods might at the time of the breach have been sold ... 392

See Damages (3)

BUILDING.
(1) A landlord may restrain a ryot from erecting a brick-house on land let for cultivation ; but if he allows it, he cannot afterwards say that the tenant has done wrong. Should the tenancy determine, the landlord would be owner of the soil, the tenant of the house ... 360
(2) A person cannot remove additions he has made to a ——, but he may have compensation for present value or for expenses incurred ... 363
(3) Where the principal subject of occupation is a —— or —— s, the rent cannot be truly described as "the rent of land either kherajee or lakherajee" ... 463
See Jurisdiction (36)
See Rent (2)

BUTWARRA.
(1) Where in a ——, parties restrict their rights by the condition that one of their number is to have full use of the water in a reservoir, the others cannot set up an embankment to diminish the flow of water into it ... 94
(2) A suit to set aside a mokurruree lease granted by a co-sharer is premature if brought before the completion of a —— in course of being effected ... 106
(3) Parties holding separate portions of an estate according to private arrangement previously made cannot apply to a Collector for a —— ... 165
(4) A Collector's —— proceedings do not preclude the enforcement of civil rights under Section 1, Act VIII. of 1859 ... 291
(5) If a plaintiff can establish his title to a larger share than that recorded in his name after a ——, and is not barred by lapse of time, he should not be denied a declaration of his right to a larger share than that recorded in his name merely because he might have been ousted under colour of the —— proceeding ... 471
See Jurisdiction (21) (37)

BYRAGEE.
See Hindoo Law (2)

C.

CAUSE OF ACTION.
(1) A plaintiff cannot change the character of his pleading and obtain a decree on a —— not originally contemplated ... 211
(2) Where an embankment keeping in surface water situated on defendant's land is demolished, the demolition can only be a —— where it not only infringes a definite right, but causes actual damage ... 250
(3) The fact of defendant's having obtained a decree under Act X. of 1859 on the ground of being proprietor, and plaintiff only a ryot, gives the latter a distinct —— to show that he is the real proprietor ... 254
(4) Where the success of a party in summary proceedings under Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure, is grounded on his being in possession as of his own right, that is a sufficient —— ... 346
(5) Where plaintiff, having put his name to a money-bond, pays a debt for which as between him and defendant the latter alone is liable, his —— is as a surety, and arises when he pays the money ... 413
(6) If the —— is the taking of money, it arises at the place where the money is taken ... 500
See Breach of Contract (2)
See Declaratory Suit (1)
See Lakherajdars (2)
See Limitation (1) (13)
See Rent Suit (4)
See Right of Worship (1)

CAVEAT EMPTOR.
The purchaser of property in litigation while the litigation is actually going on is affected in the same manner as if he had notice of the dispute ... 372
See Sale (11)

CAZEE'S BOOK.
A —— is not an official record under Section 355, Code of Civil Procedure. Before inspection under Section 138, the Court must see whether a document is a public record 173

CERTIFICATE.
(1) Where a will set up by objectors is not sufficiently proved, the Court is justified in looking on the natural heir as entitled to a —— of administration ... 73
(2) Where a compromise being effected among the members of a joint Hindoo family, the several parties take separate shares of the family-property, on the death of one of the members the others are not entitled to a —— of administration, which may be given to the adopted son with the consent of the widow 135
(3) A —— under Act XL. of 1858 is rightly given to the guardian of an adopted minor where there is no doubt of the fact of adoption : an objector on the ground of illegal adoption not claiming to be guardian has no *locus standi* ... 166

CERTIFICATE—*(Continued)*.

(4) A Hindoo widow holding a certificate under Act XXVII. of 1860 to collect debts due to her son, and applying for authority to negotiate certain Government Promissory Notes, the interest of which the son had been permitted to draw, but which stood in the name of her late husband, is bound to show how she got possession of them ... 267

(5) Where a Magistrate, on a representation from H, who alleged himself to be a cousin of the deceased, refused to deliver the latter's property to his widow who held a —— under Act XXVII. of 1860, and she, having had her appeal to the Sessions Judge dismissed, moved the High Court under Section 404, Criminal Procedure Code: HELD that the High Court had no jurisdiction to deal with the matter under the Section referred to —— ... 302

(6) But it was also held that the property may be delivered to the widow on her furnishing security for the purpose of indemnifying H ... *ib.*

See Appeal (10)
See Jurisdiction (12)
See Nephew (1)
See Procedure (2) (14)

CHARTER ACT.

The High Court may, under the powers conferred on them by the ——, compel a Moonsiff to attach property in execution, which he is bound to attach ... 246

Section 15. *See High Court* (2) (3)
See Jurisdiction (11) (32)

CIVIL AMEEN.

A——'s taking part in the erection of a *gurrandee*, the right to erect which has been decreed to plaintiff, is not an act of the Court ... 271

CIVIL COURT.

The —— to which the charge of minors and their property is entrusted by Act XL. of 1858 is the Court of the Judge of the district ... 271

See Act XVIII. of 1869 (1)
See Jurisdiction (9)

COLLECTOR.

The ——'s jurisdiction obtains where no Sub-divisional Officer exists, the terms of Section 20, Act VI. of 1862, being inapplicable where there are no presiding officers ... 498

See Jurisdiction (27)

COMPENSATION.

See Building (2)

CONFIRMATION.

See Onus Probandi (9)

CONSOLIDATION.

A Court acts sensibly in treating as one two suits for enhancement of rent by a purchaser of two different portions of the same tenure; and there can be no objection to one appeal being filed ... 395

CONSTRUCTION.

The phrases "attesting a document" and "proving a document" severally defined and distinguished ... 511

CONTRACT.

(1) Where parties have entered into a written —— for the purchase of property, the Court should see whether a binding sale was intended, although the purchase-money was not paid ... 44

(2) In a suit upon a —— for sale, in which it was agreed that, if defendant did not execute a conveyance, the —— would itself operate as such: HELD that the —— was, in fact, a conveyance under which plaintiff can hold under subsequent purchasers ... 239

(3) Where a —— for sale, though, in fact, a conveyance, is unregistered, a purchaser having a registered conveyance must prevail ... *ib.*

(4) Where on the completion of a —— with Government by one of certain contractors, a sum of money kept in hand by the Government is paid to him, and he grants a joint receipt: HELD that a co-contractor may recover from him his share of the amount ... 513

See Jurisdiction (39)
See Maintenance (3)
See Purchase Money (1)

CONTRIBUTION.

Where plaintiff had, as defendant in a former suit, failed to prove excess payment under the authority of a letter of assignment, his suit to recover on this ground should be dismissed ... 52

See Jurisdiction (5)

CONVEYANCE.

(1) It is not illegal for a judgment-debtor to dispose of all his property before attachment, provided the transaction is an *actual* ——, and not merely nominal ... 155

(2) A deed of sale conveying attached property is not made valid by the release of the property ... 222

See Contract (2) (3)
See Minor (2)

CORPORATE BODY.

(1) Where a —— is used through an agent, the suit is brought in a wrong form ... 534

CORPORATE BODY—*(Continued).*

(2) Where a —— is sued through an agent instead of in its corporate capacity, a Court is justified in refusing to make such —— a party in the suit under Section 73, Act VIII. of 1859 ... 534

See Act VIII. of 1859 (16)

COSTS.

(1) Specification of —— without allotment of responsibility is not a sufficient compliance with Section 189, Act VIII., 1859 ... 4

(2) Where the decrees of the Sudder Court and Privy Council make no provision for interest on ——, the Lower Court cannot in execution allow it ... 335

(3) Where the party's admissions and conduct induced the supposition of his liability for a claim, the Court refused him his ——, although the suit against him founded on such claim was dismissed ... 348

(4) Where the Privy Council specifies a sum as the —— of an appeal to itself, this sum does not include the —— of translation, &c., incurred in the High Court ... 356

(5) An omission to award —— is not a clerical error, but must be rectified by way of review within the prescribed time ... 414

(6) The principle of the Full Bench Ruling at page 109 of VI. Weekly Reporter (Miscellaneous Rulings) is applicable to interest on —— not awarded by the decree, and must be applied to all decrees passed either before or after the date of that judgment ... 415

(7) Plaintiff, if entitled to some part of his claim, should not be deprived of the benefit of the decree by an order as to —— making him liable to defendant for more than he would himself recover ... 465

See Act XIV. of 1859 (1)

See Mesne Profits (4)

See Proceedings (1)

COURT FEES ACT.

(1) Stamp-duty upon an appeal filed after the —— came into operation can be levied according to the provisions of that Act ... 272

(2) Under the ——, trust-property descending on the death of the trustee is liable to the *ad-valorem* stamp-duty prescribed by Schedule I., Number 11, to that Act ... 456

(3) No stamp-duty is payable under the —— on probate granted to a second executor to whom leave was reserved to take out probate when the first probate was granted ... 496

(4) Section 16 refers to cases where a party losing substantially a portion of his claim is precluded from re-asserting it before the Appellate Court without paying the proper stamp-fee ... 511

See Stamp (4)

COURT OF WARDS.

See Pottah (1)

See Records (1)

CREDITOR.

The —— of a deceased proprietor is not prevented, in the way in which deceased would have been were he alive, from questioning act done by the said proprietor's benameedar ... 333

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.

A judicial officer acting too hastily against parties whose conduct seems to obstruct the course of justice is not presumed to have acted vexatiously in the sense of Section 270, but in good faith ... 506

Chapter XI. *See Jurisdiction* (29)

CROSS-APPEAL.

(1) Where plaintiff gets a decree in a suit to recover possession against A claiming as proprietor, but not against a co-defendant claiming as a ryot, he cannot take a —— against the latter ... 26

(2) A plaintiff obtaining a decree which is appealed against is not bound to bring a —— because the Court of first instance does not accept a portion of the evidence; but the Appellate Court must examine such portion ... 136

CUSTOM.

(1) The —— of a family on particular points may be learnt from the declaration of successive heads of the family on solemn occasions ... 375

(2) For the establishment of a family —— of descent, there must be either a positive tradition that the —— exists, or a long series of instances of anomalous inheritance from which the koolachar may be inferred ... *ib.*

(3) The —— of one district cannot be inferred from its existence in another until some geographical or political connection is shown to exist between the two ... *ib.*

See Hoondee (2)

See Succession (1)

D.

DAMAGES.

(1) A false charge leading to a party's being obliged to furnish bail causes a loss of reputation for which an award of rupees 20 as —— is not unreasonable ... 85

(2) A suit for —— not exceeding Rupees 500 for injury to reputation and loss in business comes under Section 6, Act XI. of 1865, and is not open to special appeal ... 179

(3) In a contract where the intention was that plaintiff should, from time to time, give defendant notice of the articles of wood-work wanted,—— for breach of contract can only be sued for to the extent of the wood not supplied according to order ... 217

See Breach of Contract (1) (2)
See Cause of Action (2)
See Mesne Profits (5)
See Onus Probandi (5)
See Right of Suit (4)

DECLARATORY SUIT.

(1) In a suit for establishment of lakheraj title to, and confirmation of, possession in land purchased in execution by plaintiff who sued for a kubooleut: HELD that, there being no invasion of plaintiff's title, there was no cause of action ... 28

(2) A plaintiff suing for a declaration that defendant's pottah is false must make out a *primâ-facie* case before the onus can be thrown on defendant to prove the genuineness of his pottah ... 117

(3) A suit to obtain a declaration that a mortgage-bond was falsely alleged to have been registered by plaintiff, and was invalid as being a forgery, the registration having been obtained by false personation, is not merely a ——, but a suit for substantial relief ... 421

See Reversioner (3)

DECREE.

(1) A —— comes under the description of "other property" in Section 205, Act VIII., 1859, and is liable to attachment and sale. For such attachment, Section 237 is most appropriate ... 34

(2) A —— for enhancement of rent can have no retrospective effect ... 119

(3) A person to whom the ordering part of a —— gives nothing cannot be treated as having acquired any right, merely because there has been a mistake in the heading of the —— ... 126

(4) A copy of the judgment with the schedule of costs appended does not constitute a proper —— as required under Section 189, Code of Civil Procedure ... 326

(5) The purchaser of an *ex-parte* —— strongly tainted with fraud cannot be allowed to profit by it ... 340

(6) A —— is not satisfied by the taking of a kistbundee executed by the judgment-debtor, and the ——holder's remedy under the —— continues, although he agrees, as long as he receives the instalments, not to execute the decree ... 459

(7) An application to execute a solehnamah filed after remand, in appeal, of a suit which has been decreed is not a proceeding taken on the basis of the ——, and cannot keep the —— alive ... 514

(8) Where a —— of the Sudder Court is in general terms, though the judgment indicates a different intention, the —— should not be used to obtain execution for the whole of the claim, but restricted to what the Court manifestly intended to grant ... 530

(9) A —— directing payment by instalments should be executed to the extent of the instalments falling due within three years before the application for execution ... 547

See Assignee (1)
See Costs (7)
See Execution (9) (12) (16) (23)
See Partnership (1)
See Possession (4)

DEFAULT.

Where an appellant is refused postponement, and his appeal is dismissed in his absence, the case is one of —— ... 143

See Act VIII. of 1859 (11)
See Act XI. of 1865 (1)

DEFENDANT.

Where a —— summoned as a witness does not appear, the Court must adjudicate on the sufficiency of his excuse ... 269

DEPOSIT.

A party is not entitled to benefit from a —— under Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862, if it was paid in without a tender to, and refusal by, the opposite party ... 4

DISPOSSESSION.

See Limitation (10)

DISTRAINT.

See Act X. of 1859 (5)
See Jurisdiction (35)

DIVORCE.

See Mahomedan Law (3)

DOCUMENT.
(1) The rules regulating the conduct of cases in Mofussil Courts do not necessitate the proving of ——s which are not disputed ... 8
(2) ——s not evidence between the parties should not be admitted ... 490
(3) It should be distinctly noted that an admissible —— coming under the class requiring proof is admitted on the record subject to proof ... *ib.*
See Evidence (12)

DUR-PUTNEEDAR.
The status of a —— does not depend on registration or the consent of the zemindar ... 125
See Rent (1)

E.

EASEMENT.
A person claiming right of —— over another's property is bound to prove continuous enjoyment, not merely by presumption, but as of right ... 401

EJECTMENT.
(1) In a suit to recover possession where plaintiffs have been ousted by defendants who have no title, the latter cannot set up the claim of a third party; and plaintiffs' right is not affected by the limitation under Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859 ... 278
(2) A superior holder dispossessing a ryot is liable, not merely for the profit he makes by letting out the land, but to make good the ryot's loss ... 428
See Jurisdiction (17)
See Notice (7)
See Right of Occupancy (3)
See Sale (7)

EMBANKMENT.
See Onus Probandi (14)

ENDOWMENT.
Where property is endowed by the proprietor, and as such devolves to his widow as trustee, it cannot be sold in satisfaction of a claim against him ... 75

ENHANCEMENT.
(1) In a suit for —— on the ground that defendant holds lands in excess of what he pays rent for, plaintiff must show that they are included in defendant's tenure, and that he pays rent for a smaller area ... 91
(2) In a suit for —— where plaintiff establishes the ground of his claim, and defendant's plea under Section 4, Act X. of 1859, is not made out, the rules of proportion laid out in Full Bench Ruling in the case of

ENHANCEMENT—*(Continued).*
Thakooranee Dassee must be applied 109
(3) A Judge, finding plaintiff not entitled to a decree for arrears of rent at an enhanced rate, has no right to declare defendant's tenure liable to —— prospectively 148
(4) The rent of a tenure protected from —— under Section 4, Act X. of 1859, cannot be increased on the ground of excess land ... 157
(5) Where defendant's tenure began from a date later than the Permanent Settlement, he is not entitled to the presumption under Section 4, Act X. of 1859, even if he proves uniform rate of payment for 20 years ... 193
(6) In a suit for a kubooleut at enhanced rates said to be those prevailing in adjacent villages, the evidence of seven occupant ryots of the neighbourhood, though not a majority, makes a case which defendant is bound to rebut 240
(7) A suit for a kubooleut at a given rent, where the rate claimed is above what is equitable, is a suit for —— to which Full Bench Ruling at p. 14, Weekly Reporter, Vol. X., applies 289
(8) Where a plaintiff, even after measurement, claims rent for a much larger excess of land than exists, the Lower Court is right in refusing to help him to recover rent on a small excess found in defendant's possession 366
(9) A notice of —— on the ground that the ryot is paying at a lower rate than that paid by equal ryots shows that —— is sought under Clause 1, Section 17, Act X. of 1859 ... 391
(10) In a suit for arrears of rent at an enhanced rate, where defendants plead protection under a mokurruree pottah of old date, *since lost:* HELD that their inability to prove the pottah should not prevent their being allowed to prove uniform payment 393
(11) A putneedar in a mehal under temporary settlement, who grants a pottah reciting that no increase of jumma shall ever be demanded, cannot, when his own rent is raised by the zemindar on obtaining a permanent settlement, raise his lessee's rent 493
(12) A putneedar suing for —— on the ground of his own rent being raised is not entitled to a decree for —— of excess land in defendant's possession, or to treat him as a trespasser in respect of such excess ... ... *ib.*

ENHANCEMENT—*(Continued).*

(13) Where there is no right of occupancy, a landlord's notice of —— is valid if it specifies the rent for the ensuing year and the ground of such ——, the only limit to his power of —— after notice being the fairness and reasonableness of the rent 520

See Decree (2)
See Intermediate Tenure (2)
See Kuboolent (1)
See Notice (6)

ESTOPPEL.

Only matters decided between the parties by the decree in the suit should be treated as binding against them in subsequent litigation: no part of the reasoning on the findings of fact is binding further than for the purposes of the particular decision ... 527

See Res Adjudicata (2) (3)
See Title (2)

EVIDENCE.

(1) In a boundary-dispute, a survey-map, if not conclusive ——, is important, and should be considered ... 3

(2) The Judge of an Appellate Court should allow the parties or their pleaders to submit the —— at the hearing in open Court, with every comment and argument they think necessary 54

(3) The copy of a copy of a document is —— when it comes from a public office, and the original is shown to have been lost 102

(4) A statement by a pleader on behalf of his client after full consideration and consultation is admissible as —— against that client in another case in which he is a party ... 135

(5) The —— of a defendant's agent in the absence of defendant's own deposition is legal —— 157

(6) A map is not admissible as —— unless it is stamped 110

(7) Where an urpunnamah is proved, but cannot be found, the Court may accept as secondary —— the authenticated copy of an authenticated copy 228

(8) Though no right or title can be decided adversely to defendant on the basis of a solehnamah to which he was not a party, it would yet be —— that, by an order passed on it, plaintiff was put in possession ... 261

(9) A Collectorate peon's return of service of notice is not legal ... 270

(10) An admission before a Registrar of the receipt of purchase-money attested by his endorsement is not conclusive ——; but the party

EVIDENCE—*(Continued).*

seeking to get out of its effect must make out his case by very clear —— ... 280

(11) Where the order for a local investigation under Section 180, Code of Civil Procedure, is not objected to by the opposite party at the time, the Commissioner's report and the depositions may be viewed as —— 291

(12) A Court is bound to receive as —— authenticated documents named in the plaint and filed on the day for fixing issues, even though through inadvertence of the amlah they were not made part of the record 323

(13) When there is a conflict between a Judge's memoranda of —— and the recorded depositions of witnesses, the Court must be guided by the latter ... 375

(14) In a possessory suit, plaintiff's inability to substantiate an alleged pottah is no reason why he should not be permitted to fall back upon other —— ... 399

(15) Where, in a suit for possession of land contained in a Government resumed mehal, defendant applies for a comparison with the maps and chittahs made in a boundary-dispute between the zemindar and Government, to show that the land belonged to the jungle-mehal, he proffers the very best ——, and the Subordinate Judge should entertain the application ... 444

See Agreement (1)
See Arbitration Award (1)
See Enhancement (6)
See Measurement (2)
See Plaint (1)
See Pleadings (1)
See Procedure (15)
See Registration (1)
See Special Appeal (9)

EXCESS LAND.

See Enhancement (7) (8)
See Rent Suit (6)

EXCESS PAYMENT.

See Execution (7)

EXECUTION.

(1) If a person is to be concluded by the contention that his application to execute is not *bonâ fide*, he should be allowed to explain all his acts 5

(2) Payments out of Court may be certified to the Court and proved by the decree-holder to avoid the law of limitation, notwithstanding Section 206, Act VIII., 1859 ... 66

(3) A widow claiming to be a trustee of property endowed by her husband is not bound by a decision adverse

f

EXECUTION—*(Continued).*

to a claim set up by her husband's grandfather in respect of that property, if she was not a party to the litigation ... 75

(4) A Lower Appellate Judge decreeing a suit in satisfaction of a decree-holder's claim from the proceeds of a house should himself determine and adjudge the value of the house, and not refer that duty to the —— department 124

(5) The omission of a decree-holder to carry on —— proceedings pending an application for re-hearing is no evidence of want of *bona fides* ... 127

(6) Buying in good faith at a sale in —— does not make it immaterial to inquire into the vendor's title ... 131

(7) Sums paid in —— in excess of what was due under the decree can only be recovered by application to the Court which executed the decree... 160

(8) When a decree-holder pays into Court money for issue of notices of attachment and sale, his intention is supposed to be *bonâ fide* ... 162

(9) A party obtaining a decree to recover a mortgage-debt by sale of two mortgaged premises may proceed against both or either ... 170

(10) The prospective attachment and sale of a judgment-debtor's right to maintenance allowed by a decree cannot be ordered ; but in view of an instalment becoming due, the Court may make an order for non-payment 188

(11) The proceedings of a decree-holder to get full relief, on being referred to a civil suit, keep the decree alive 207

(12) Where a decree requires the judgment-debtor to render accounts, he can only account for moneys come into his hands, and it is open to the decree-holder to show that this has not been done 260

(13) Where it would take 20 years to pay off the debts from the profits of the attached property of the judgment-debtor, a Court executing the decree is right in not appointing a manager. But a manager may be appointed if by sale, mortgage, &c., of portions under Section 243, Act VIII., 1859, the debt can be cleared off in six months 322

(14) Paying tullubana and taking out process evince a sufficient *bonâ-fide* intention of obtaining the fruits of a decree 356

(15) Where a purchaser in —— claims more than the share of the person whose rights and interests he has purchased, his suit should be decreed to the extent to which these rights and interests are found to exist ... 363

(16) As between judgment-debtors and decree-holder, the purchase of a decree by one of the debtors operates as a satisfaction of the decree, which cannot, therefore, be legally executed ... 372

(17) An application for partial ——, though irregular and ineffectual, must, if made *bonâ fide* under a mis-apprehension of law, be regarded as a proceeding keeping the decree alive ... 449

(18) A Privy Council decree ordering possession with mesne-profits, but without interest, does not interfere with the power of the Judge who executes it to award interest on the aggregate sum adjudged and costs from date of decree to date of payment ... 469

(19) A mortgagee taking out a money-decree may follow the property on which he has a lien into the hands first of one purchaser and then of another ... 486

(20) The deposit of tullubana without indication of the mode in which —— is to be obtained is not a *bonâ-fide* proceeding keeping the decree alive ... 530

(21) Under Section 204, Civil Procedure Code, the decree of the Appellate Court may be executed against the surety who has rendered himself liable for the performance of the decree, and the Recorder's order dismissing a case against such a surety is open to appeal ... 538

(22) There is no procedure under Act VIII. of 1859 according to which —— may be taken out of a kisteebundee incorporated into a decree without a previous regular suit ... 542

(23) Where an appeal is inadvertently decreed against four share-holders instead of five, the Court executing it errs in recovering the entire amount out of the shares of the four ... 545

See Act VIII. of 1859 (14)
See Act X. of 1859 (1) (4)
See Bona Fides (2)
See Civil Ameen (1)
See Decree (6) (8) (9)
See Execution (3)
See Interest (1)
See Joint Decree (1) (3)
See Jurisdiction (43)
See Lien (2)
See Limitation (4) (6)

EXECUTION—*(Continued)*.

See Mesne Profits (1) (2) (7) (8)
See Pre-emption (7)
See Sale (4) (10)

EX-PARTE.

An order setting aside an —— judgment is final where defendant shows sufficient cause for not appearing, and applies within 30 days after the attempt to execute process. An appeal will lie if the order is made without jurisdiction, or the application is admitted after the prescribed time ... 175

(2) It is not just to restore an —— decree which two Courts, on subsequent trial on the merits, find should not be renewed; and the Moonsiff's order admitting the case to a re-hearing is not open to appeal ... 315

(3) It may be competent to a Small Cause Court Judge, on hearing one of the defendants, to set aside an *ex-parte* decree as to all, if justice requires it ... 371

(4) In dealing with a suit ——, the Court must see that plaintiff's case is *primâ facie* proved; the mere absence of the defendant not justifying the presumption that plaintiff's case is true ... 503

(5) Where a case was decided —— notwithstanding repeated applications for time to enable defendant's witnesses living in distant and different districts to be present, the High Court remanded the case for re-trial ... *ib.*

See Procedure (12)

F.

FERRY.

A suit to re-open a —— included in an estate obtained from the Government, was held not to be maintainable, the ghât where plaintiff desired it to be re-opened being within two miles of where a public —— was established ... 132

FINDING.

See Possession (5)

FORECLOSURE.

Omission to give notice to the mortgagor or his representative is sufficient to vitiate the whole of the —— proceedings ... 263

FOREIGN JUDGMENTS.

The rule laid down in a case where —— are sought to be executed in our Courts ... 500

FOREIGN TERRITORY.

See Notice (1)

FRAUD.

In a suit by a son of one of two members of a family who sold property, to pay off a debt jointly contracted, for his own or his own and his father's share, if it is alleged that the father is connected with the institution of the suit with a view to defraud creditor, an important issue is raised which should be tried and decided ... 436

See Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865 (1)
See Bona Fides (3)
See Decree (5)
See Locus Penitentiæ (1)
See Onus Probandi (13)
See Plea (3)

G.

GHATWAL.

A —— cannot grant a lease in perpetuity ... 38

GROUNDS OF APPEAL.

Where one of the —— in the written memorandum is not alluded to in the hearing, the Court is not at fault if no decision is passed upon it. If the Court fails to decide such point after attention is called to it, a review of judgment should be asked for ... 296

GUARDIAN.

A widow defending a suit as —— of her minor son cannot be made liable in her own person as well as representing her husband's heirs ... 192

F.

HEARING.

See Act VIII. of 1859 (3).

HEIR.

See Certificate (1)
See Hindoo Law (5)
See Inheritance (3)

HIGH COURT.

(1) Where the decision of a Lower Court follows a view of the law taken by the ——, and that view is set aside by a ruling of Her Majesty in Council, the judgment-creditor has a right to a re-trial ... 143

(2) The —— cannot interfere under Section 15 of the Charter Act where the Lower Court has not acted without jurisdiction, or where there is a remedy by a regular suit ... 170

(3) The ——'s interference under Section 5 of the Charter Act is warranted where a Collector refuses to notice an intervenor's claim, and therefore is held to have refused to try the case ... 418

See Appeal (5)
See Special Appeal (6).

HINDOO LAW.
(1) Under the Mitakshara, a nephew succeeds, not as the heir of his father, but as direct heir of his uncle ... 70
(2) A Hindoo becoming a byragee does not divest himself of all title in his family-estate which, on his death, devolves on his heirs, and not on his mistress, though she performed his funeral rites ... 197
(3) A shebait may alienate a reasonable portion of the property, where the necessities of the management require it ... 228
(4) If a sister's son is alive at the death of his uncle's last preceding female heir who succeeded to the property, he takes the succession ... 433
(5) Amongst sapindas, the nearest sapinda excludes those more remote ... 482
(6) A childless Hindoo is bound to adopt a son, if at all anxious for his own salvation; and what is required to be done is not optional, but imperative ... 548
See Adoption (1)
See Hindoo Widow (4)
See Joint Hindoo Family (6)
See Possession (7)

HINDOO WIDOW.
(1) Where a husband leaves property, moveable and immoveable, to be enjoyed by his —— for her lifetime, and after her death to become the absolute property of his adopted son, she may invest money in the purchase of immoveable property for the maintenance of her daughter and granddaughter 63
(2) A —— enjoying the immoveable property of her deceased husband cannot alienate the immoveable property or any property she has purchased out of the profits of such estate ... *ib.*
(3) A——'s maintenance is a charge upon the family-estate in whosesoever hands the estate may fall ... 263
(4) Under the ——, a grandson is not entitled to maintenance ... 498
See Arrears of Rent (2)
See Inheritance (3)
See Sale (9)

HOONDEE.
(1) The non-acceptance of a duplicate —— where the original has already been accepted, does not give plaintiff any cause of action, and consideration has not failed ... 501
(2) Where a duplicate —— provides that it shall not be accepted if the original has been accepted, no custom can override the terms of the contract, or be sustained in a Court of Justice ... *ib*

I.

IJARADAR.
See Zemindar (1)

IJMALEE.
The word —— expresses joint-tenancy, even where commensality is not implied ... 93

INCUMBRANCE.
(1) Where a tenure whose lease does not reserve a right of sale for arrears of rent is sold for arrears, it is sold subject to ——s, and the purchaser is bound by a decree of foreclosure passed against the former holder... 237
(2) If a tenure is sold without the consent of the zemindar, the purchaser can only be treated as holding a rent-free tenure subject to that of the original tenant, and such rent-free tenure can be avoided by the purchaser when the tenure itself is sold under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865... 360
(3) A house built on a tenure cannot be considered an——within the meaning of Section 16, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865 ... *ib.*
See Purchaser (1)

INHERITANCE.
(1) An heir does not lose his rights as such, because he cannot prove a will under which he claimed a larger share in a former litigation in which no question of inheritance was raised ... 251
(2) Where the impartibility of a Raj has its origin in the Raj itself, the nature of the Raj would not exclude from —— any persons of either sex, if without physical or intellectual infirmity ... 375
(3) To determine who is the heir to a deceased Hindoo who left a widow as his heir, it must be seen who was the nearest sapinda alive at the time of the death of the widow ... 442
See Custom (2)

INSOLVENCY.
The provisions of the Civil Procedure Code in respect of —— are applicable to decrees of Small Cause Courts in the Mofussil ... 571
See Insolvent.

INSOLVENT.
The vesting of an ——'s property in the Official Assignee is liable to be divested by a sale in pursuance of an attachment subsisting at the time of the investing order ... 257
See Insolvency.
See Security (1)

INSTALMENT-BOND.
See Decree (6)
See Execution (22)

INSTALMENTS.
See Decree (9)

INTEREST
(1) —— is rightly awarded on excess payment under a decree executed during the pendency of a special appeal, which decree was modified, and the amount reduced in the special appeal ... 74
(2) When there is no express understanding that a certain exorbitant rate of —— stipulated for in a bond is to continue after the time fixed for repayment, the Court need not assume that the parties are bound to that rate by contract after such period... 284
See Bond (3)
See Costs (2) (6)
See Mesne Profits (9)

INTERMEDIATE TENURE.
(1) Intermediate holders setting up as mokurrureedars are not debarred from pleading limitation against their landlord ... 232
(2) Where a notice of enhancement in connection with an —— states that the talookdar can collect so much rent from the ryots, the talookdar may support his claim to protection, on the ground that he cannot obtain the rent claimed from him ... 335
See Limitation (11)
See Mortgagor (1)
See Notice (6)
See Transfer (3)

INTERRUPTION.
See User (2)

INTERVENTION.
The fact of a defendant in the first instance allowing the intervenor alone to appeal does not debar him, when the case is re-opened by remand, from appealing in his own person ... 572
See Procedure (15)

INVALID LAKHERAJ.
See Limitation (15)

IRREGULARITY.
If fraud is absent, want of clearness in specifying the arrears and costs for which a sale is made, in the mode of publishing the notice, is not an —— vitiating the sale ... 279
See Jurisdiction (6)

ISSUES
(1) —— are to be fixed under Section 138, Code of Civil Procedure. Where defendant does not appear, the Court is not bound to fix any ——, but should proceed under Section 111 to hear the case *ex parte* ... 145
(2) Where a Court shortly before decision records a proceeding declaring its intention to frame additional ——, and reserves the actual framing for the time of giving judgment, its procedure is not warranted by Section 141 of the Civil Procedure Code ... 151
(3) Matters in dispute should be ascertained from the hearing of the suit as well as from the plaint and answer; and it is not necessary that a decision come to upon —— fixed in the Lower Court should be set aside on account of indistinctness in the form of the plaint ... 286
See Fraud (1)
See Parties (2)

J.

JOINDER OF CAUSES.
Where a number of cases are instituted against the same defendant relating to the same matter, and plaintiff applies to have them all tried separately on its merits ... 110
See Right of Suit (3)

JOINT DECREE.
(1) One of several holders of the same decree wishing to take out execution should apply under Section 207, Act VIII., 1859, to execute the whole decree: the Court may admit the application, passing orders to protect the interests of the other decree-holders ... 159
(2) In a suit against heirs inheriting equally, a —— may be passed without determining the liability of each ... 192
(3) Where a —— for contribution passed against a Hindoo widow and the reversioner is executed against the latter as sole surviving judgment-debtor, by the sale of his rights and interests in the property, the joint property is held to have passed, though the sale-certificate omits the word "property" ... 329
See Specific Liability (1)

JOINT HINDOO FAMILY.
(1) Where a partition is made to determine the share of one member, and the other members continue to live and mess together, these others must be presumed to have re-united ... 200
(2) The fact of plaintiffs and judgment-debtor being members of a —— does not create the presumption that certain property sold in execution is joint; and plaintiffs having once alleged separation, the onus is on them to prove that it was held jointly ... 238

JOINT HINDOO FAMILY—*(Continued).*
(3) Where part of the family-property is joint and the members live in commensality, there is warrantable presumption that the family is joint... 304
(4) The wives and mothers of a——are as much members of the family as their husbands and sons; and where property is purchased in the name of a female member during the life of her minor son, the presumption of joint acquisition is not rebutted by the fact of her name being entered in the Collector's books ... 357
(5) The special rule of Hindoo Law under which a re-united parcener takes the heritage to the exclusion of a separate claimant of an equal degree applies only where the coparceners re-united through affection, and live in the same house with entire community of interest ... 442
(6) The presumption of Hindoo Law against the claim of a member of a family to the exclusive right to a house which he has built arises only in the case of a —— ... 446
(7) The manager of certain joint property cannot found any right to sell a part of it on the presumption of plaintiff's consent, however such presumption may avail the purchasers ... 467
See Certificate (2)
See Partition (3)

JUDGMENT.
See Decree (8)

JUDGMENT-DEBTOR.
(1) The silence of a —— on a previous occasion is no bar to his being heard when he objects alleging material irregularity, provided the allegation is made within the 30 days allowed by law 95
(2) There is no law authorizing the High Court to interfere for the relief of a necessitous —— whose salary has been attached in execution of a decree of a Small Cause Court ... 534
See Liability (2)

JURISDICTION.
(1) In respect of an appeal to the Collector as a condition precedent to a suit in the Civil Court under Section 13, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865 17
(2) In a suit on the ground of illegal ejectment where defendant is the ijardar entitled to the rents ... 18
(3) Of a Civil Court to try the genuineness of a kubooleut found by the Revenue Court to be a genuine document ... 32
(4) Of a Judge in respect to ordering the trial by a Subordinate Judge of proceedings in execution of a decree, which are part of the original civil suit tried by himself ... 48
(5) In a suit to recover money alleged to have been paid in excess of plaintiff's share of rent on account of his co-tenant ... 52
(6) Where, in an execution-sale under Act X., there has been irregularity brought about by the contrivance of the decree-holder ... 58
(7) Where a Judge finds that an application for execution is within time, and there is no appeal from his finding 67
(8) As respects the re-arrest of a judgment-debtor without any petition or motion of the decree-holder ... 68
(9) Of Civil Courts in respect to the vested rights of parties ... 80
(10) Where defendant having been plaintiff's servant in charge of his shop, on the understanding that he was to have a small share of the profits in lieu of fixed wages, is sued for recovery of the balance after deduction of such remuneration ... 89
(11) Of the High Court under Section 15 of the Charter Act where mere errors of law are committed by a Lower Appellate Court in cases in which the High Court has no appellate —— ... 90
(12) Of a Zillah Judge in respect of the release of money taken as security by an order of the High Court from the holder of a certificate under Act XXVII. of 1860 ... 108
(13) Where it is sought to be shown that no separation of shares ought to be granted by a Collector when the lands are held ijmalee by all the sharers, and there has never been any apportionment ... 112
(14) Of a Civil Court to set aside the proceeding of a Collector in execution of a decree of his own Court... 119
(15) In an appeal in a suit under Clause 4, Section 23, Act X. of 1859, where plaintiff sues for ejectment under Clause 5 of the same Section ... 155
(16) Of a Court of Small Causes in respect of incidental questions of title 166
(17) In a suit for possession with mesne-profits on the allegation that defendant, notwithstanding the determination of his tenancy, holds on as a trespasser ... 171
(18) In respect of the decision of arbitrators in a matter not in difference between the parties, nor referred to them ... 172
(19) Where a rival decree-holder shows that an attachment should not have issued, as the decree under which it issued is barred by lapse of time 219

JURISDICTION—*(Continued).*

(20) Of a Moonsiff in a rent-suit instituted in his Court before Act VIII. (B.C.) of 1869, and decided by him after the —— of the Revenue Courts ceased to exist ... 242

(21) In a suit the real object of which is to obtain a division of the lands of an estate paying revenue to Government ... *ib.*

(22) In respect of the assessment or ascertainment of rents of land which has hitherto paid none, by a Collector proceeding to measure it under Section 10, Act VI. (B.C.) of 1862 243

(23) In a suit to have certain lands declared liable for the satisfaction of an instalment-bond ... 277

(24) Of a Small Cause Court, in a suit on a mortgage-bond, in regard to a decree on default of payment, for the sale of the immoveable property pledged; and of the Civil Court, in regard to allowing the sale in execution ... 311

(25) Where an application under Section 230, Code of Civil Procedure, has been registered as a suit ... 327

(26) In a suit by a zemindar under Section 24, Act X. of 1859, where the terms of the kubooleut, given by defendant when appointed superintendent, require time to make the zemindar's principal cutcherry his place of business ... 343

(27) Where property is seized and retained by a Collector in his capacity of Receiver ... 347

(28) Of a Recorder in pronouncing against the validity of a will, where errors of procedure have been committed in the trial ... 351

(29) In respect to prosecution where an offence is committed against a Court of first instance ... 352

(30) Under Section 3, Act XL. of 1858, of a Small Cause Court constituted under Act XI. of 1865 ... 369

(31) In a suit for the recovery of a sum below Rs. 500 alleged to be improperly taken away from the Collector, who held it in deposit on account of certain lands taken for public purposes ... 397

(32) In a suit to recover a sum below Rs. 500, at a station where there is a Small Cause Court ... *ib.*

(33) In a suit for a sum below Rs. 500, where some of the defendants are living within the —— of a Small Cause Court ... *ib.*

(34) An incidental finding by a Revenue Court as to the genuineness of a pottah is no bar to the —— of a Civil Court to try the question on a distinct issue in a regular suit ... 415

JURISDICTION—*(Continued).*

(35) In a suit by a ryot for the recovery of the value of his property illegally distrained as the property of another ryot ... 451

(36) In a suit a by zemindar against a putneedar or ijaradar for rent, when there are houses on the land demised ... 463

(37) Under the Butwarra law in respect of disputed questions of right and title in shares; and in respect of suits for declaration of plaintiff's right to a larger share than that recorded in his name after a butwarra in the paper of partition ... 471

(38) In respect of the division of land and jumma ... *ib.*

(39) In a suit to recover from a co-contractor money which he had received on the completion of the contract, and which had been held back to meet the contingency of expenses in case of failure ... 513

(40) In a suit by a lessor for arrears of rent where the principal matter demised under the lease is land, and indigo-factories are merely the adjuncts ... 520

(41) Of a Civil Court where a manager is appointed under Act XL. of 1858 529

(42) In respect to a suit against priests for a certain share of their earnings... 531

(43) A District Judge cannot transfer a case of execution of decree passed by his own Court, to the file of the Subordinate Judge for disposal ... 574

See Abetment (1)
See Act VIII. of 1859 (5)
See Act XX. of 1866 (2)
See Appeal (1) (8) (11)
See Arbitration Award (2)
See Butwarra (4)
See Charter Act (1)
See Collector (1)
See Ex parte (1) (3)
See Foreign Judgments (1)
See Lien (1)
See Moveable Property (1)
See Procedure (9) (12)
See Res Adjudicata (5)

K.

KHAS POSSESSION.

See Transfer (2)

KUBOOLEUT.

Where a suit for a —— at an enhanced rent is decreed without any term being fixed by the Court, the ——executed is inoperative beyond the year of demand ... 424

See Registration (1)

L.

LADIES OF POSITION.
Where a Mahomedan lady residing within a town where the Court holds its sitting is willing to admit the Court to an interview at her own residence, the Judge should not insist on her personal appearance in Court ... 129

LAKHERAJ.
(1) A decree declaring the zemindar's right to assess rent on lands held under ——grants made since 1st December 1790 establishes, as between him and the person in possession, the relation of landlord and tenant 474
(2) Unless the holder of a resumption-decree takes steps under Regulation XIX. of 1793 to have the revenue fixed, and the defendant consents to pay the revenue required of him, he has no *locus standi* ... 483
(3) In determining the mode of assessing resumed——land, it must be ascertained whether the existence of the ——prior to 1790 has been decided by the decree for resumption. Every case instituted under Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, cannot be presumed to deal with an estate held —— prior to 1790 ... *ib.*

LAKHERAJDARS.
(1) Whose lands have been resumed have a right to bring a civil suit to revise, annul, or alter a settlement made by the Collector, against all who have claims ... 537
(2) A resumption decree does not destroy the proprietary right of the ——. By obtaining a permanent settlement, they acquire no new right, a cause of action accruing to them if ousted before settlement ... 552

LANDLORD.
See Tenant (1)

LEASE.
See Ghatwal (1)

LEGITIMACY.
See Mahomedan Law (2)

LESSEE.
(1) In a suit by the —— of a mouzah to recover land from a —— of an adjoining mouzah, both making title under one zemindar, and where a survey took place when both mouzahs were in his possession and, neither of the leases was in existence: HELD that the suit involved simply a question of boundary ... 35
(2) Where a —— whose lease has expired retains possession in hope of a new —— without increased rent, parties

LESSEE—*(Continued).*
entering on the land as cultivators with consent of the landlord need not show the ex-lessee their authority ... 133
See Enhancement (11)
See Intermediate Tenure (1)
See Lessor.

LESSOR.
A —— preventing ryots from paying rent to the lessee when he comes into possession is liable for mesne-profits ... 196
See Intermediate Tenure (1)

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.
See Representation (1)

LIABILITY.
(1) When a creditor takes a bond from a principal debtor without the knowledge or consent of the sureties, they are entitled to be discharged from all —— ... 252
(2) The representative of a deceased judgment-debtor coming into possession of his property is liable to account for it inclusive of mesne-profits, whether in the shape of rents or of interest ... 285
(3) A tenant's——to pay his jumma to the party entitled, cannot be split up without his consent ... 395
(4) In the absence of an application under Section 339, Code of Civil Procedure, or of anything to show whether or not the surety bound himself beyond the penal sum of the bond, that sum only can be required from him ... 538
See Breach of Contract (2)
See Ejectment (2
See Guardian (1)
See Mortgage (2)

LIEN.
(1) *B* may attach and sell property on which *A* has obtained a declaration of his ——; but the purchaser will be bound by that—— ... 246
(2) A decree declaring a decree-holder's —— on certain property, but not declaring his right to sell it, may be executed as against that property specially, but the usual course of attachment and sale, or of attachment and management, must take place ... 337
See Execution (19)

LIMITATION.
(1) In a suit against a widow for waste and alienation during the lives of plaintiff's mothers who are then the next heirs to the property ... 1
(2) In a suit for restoration to possession where plaintiff seeks to exclude the question of title ... 38

LIMITATION—*(Continued).*

(3) Where defendant admits adverse possession for upwards of 11 years, and plaintiff's cause of action having arisen at the close of a contest with Government which claimed to resume the land, defendant alleges that he knew nothing of the contest, and that he has held possession for 27 years ... 43

(4) In respect to the execution of a decree ... 51

(5) As applied to the time during which an application for review is pending 61

(6) As applied to an application for execution where the decree-holder fails to find any of the judgment-debtor's property ... 67

(7) As to time of pending of a suit where plaintiff, relying on defendant's representation as to the latter's residence, brings a suit in a Court which has not jurisdiction 69

(8) In respect of the cause of action in a suit by a member of the family for declaration of right and title to certain villages in a family-estate in which the rule of primogeniture prevails to meet ancestral debts, and against which the Political Department in Chota Nagpore has taken out attachment ... 102

(9) How to be computed where the Court has been unable to decide a suit owing to defect of jurisdiction or other cause ... 125

(10) As affected by plaintiff's failure to prove dispossession on the date mentioned in the plaint ... 178

(11) Where the purchaser of land, claiming to receive rents directly from the ryots, sues to get rid of an alleged mokurruree intermediate tenure of 1257; and it also appears that plaintiff had been previously in occupation under a ticca lease extending to 1263 191

(12) As applied to the admission of Privy Council Appeals ... 255

(13) As pleaded against a person who, having had possession of a moiety of certain lands delivered under Section 224, Code of Civil Procedure, obtains an Act IV. award whilst another suit for the remainder is pending, and defendant's pleader admits in Court that the only question remaining to be decided is one of costs ... 307

(14) In a suit under Clause 13, Section 1, Act XIV. of 1859, to enforce a right to a share in immoveable property alleged to be joint-family property, where plaintiff claims as heir to her husband, and defendant has been in adverse possession for 9 years ... 400

LIMITATION—*(Continued).*

(15) In a suit by a dur-putneedar for the resumption of land alleged to be held as lakheraj under an invalid title ... 436

(16) In respect to an application to the High Court under Section 35 of Act XXIII. of 1861 to order a subordinate Court to receive an appeal which ought to have been received within 15 days of the original decision ... 518

(17) As applied under Section 32, Act X. of 1859, to the recovery of rent ... 523

See Intermediate Tenure (1)
See Right of Way (3)
See Right of Worship (1)

LIS PENDENS.

The doctrine of —— is not applicable to the case of a purchaser at a sale in execution ... 308

LOCUS PENITENTIAE.

Where the fraudulent intention of a conveyance is not carried out, a —— is left to plaintiff who is entitled to ask to be quieted in possession if it has been prejudicially affected by her husband for his own ends by a fictitious decision under Act X. ... 312

LUNATIC.

See Act XXXV. of 1858 (1)

MAHOMEDAN LAW.

(1) The consent given by heirs to a testator's will before his death is no assent at all: to be valid, it must be given after the testator's death ... 146

(2) Under ——, the acknowledgment of a father renders a son or daughter legitimate and an heir, unless it is impossible for the child to be so; and this acknowledgment need not be such as to be evidence of marriage ... 403

(3) An agreement between a Mahomedan and his wife at the time of marriage, that, if he entered into a second marriage during her lifetime without her consent, she would be entitled to divorce herself and take a second husband, is in consonance with —— ... 555

See Maintenance (3)

MAHOMEDAN WIDOW.

(1) In suit by the husband's heir to recover possession of property held by a —— in virtue of a claim for dower, defendant having failed to prove forcible dispossession, the inference is that the defendant got into possession on the ground alleged by

MAHOMEDAN WIDOW—*(Continued).*
herself with the consent of the other heirs ... 82
(2) A —— claiming to have a lien on account of her unsatisfied dower must clearly prove the existence and amount of her dower ... 403

MAINTENANCE.
(1) The question of adequacy of —— must depend on the circumstances of each case ... 73
(2) A decree for —— to be paid at a certain rate per month stands on the same footing as a decree ordering payment by instalments ... 128
(3) Where a Mahomedan wife re-conveys to her husband the property received from him in lieu of dower, and he gives a written agreement covenanting to pay her a certain annuity, he cannot avoid payment on any of the pleas on which a Mahomedan husband may avoid payment of —— ... 296
See Execution (10
See Hindoo Widow (3)
See Res Adjudicàta (5)

MAJORITY.
The provision as to —— in Section 26, Act XL. of 1858, applies, though proceedings may not have been taken in the Civil Court for the care of the person and property of one (not a European British subject) who has attained the age of 18 years ... 451

MANAGER.
The —— of a minor's estate cannot resign without the Court's permission, and without accounting to his successor for all moneys received and disbursed 398
See Execution (13)
See Jurisdiction (41)

MARFUTWAREE.
—— payments confer no ryotee title on the marfutwar ... 197

MEASUREMENT.
(1) A —— under Act VI. (B.C.) of 1862 not objected to by the ryots while in progress, cannot be set aside in appeal on objections made subsequently ... 23
(2) —— papers are inadmissible in law where there is no proof of the circumstances under which they were prepared ... 218
(3) An applicant under Section 10, Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862, must first prove what steps he has taken to obtain

MEASUREMENT—*(Continued).*
the knowledge of the tenures in his estate, and that he cannot measure because he cannot ascertain them. If his averments are objected to and the Collector proceeds without enquiry, the proceedings are without jurisdiction ... 522

MESNE PROFITS.
(1) Where a suit for —— is included in one for possession, plaintiff must value his claim at its real amount, and cannot depart from the claim made by his plaint ... 51
(2) —— being decreed, the mode of ascertaining them is rightly reserved for the proceedings in execution ... 133
(3) In a decree for possession with ——, decree-holder may ask the Court under Section 197, Civil Procedure Code, to inquire into the amount of —— in execution ... 203
(4) In decreeing ——, the Court cannot disallow costs of collection ... *ib.*
(5) Obstruction to possession may be a ground for a claim for damages, but not for —— unless there has been dispossession ... 221
(6) In a suit for —— when the value of the produce of a julkur is decreed to be ascertained in execution, the Lower Appellate Court is right in taking the nearest approximate value indicated by the evidence and the plaintiff's statement ... 258
(7) A judgment-debtor must make good his claim to a deduction on account of —— when called upon by the Court executing the decree; otherwise he loses his remedy ... 266
(8) When a decree awards —— up to date of institution of suit, the Court executing it has no power to give more ... 292
(9) A suit to recover a sum as part of consideration-money which would have been recovered from the profits of the tenures agreed to be sold, had it not been for defendant's breach of contract, and a sum paid on account of rent due by defendant with interest, is not a suit for —— but for interest ... 408
See Ejectment (2)
See Jurisdiction (17)
See Lessor (1)
See Procedure (12)

MINOR.
(1) Where the lender of money under a bond, pledging the borrower's own share of an estate and the shares of——s, sues to recover from the borrower the rent paid on account of the shares of the—— s, his suit is properly framed ... 37

MINOR—*(Continued).*

(2) The plea of minority can be used to protect a ——but not to injure third parties, *e.g.*, a——who understands the transaction making a sale, must refund the consideration-money before he can get back the property 268

See Adoption (2)
See Civil Court (1)
See Jurisdiction (30)

MOKURRURBB.

(1) Parties holding a permanent settlement from Government cannot question the validity of a —— pottah previously granted by themselves ... 394

(2) A —— tenure granted in perpetuity cannot be resumed by the grantor, even if the grantee dies without heirs ... 549

MONEY-DECREE.

Where a mortgagee electing to take a simple —— purchases the mortgaged land sold in execution, and is afterwards ejected by a party claiming to hold on a prior conveyance, he cannot bring a suit to have the mortgaged property declared liable 195

See Right of Suit (1)
See Zur-i-peshgeedar (1)

MOOKHTEAR.

Before a Magistrate can suspend a—— he must observe the requirements of Section 16, Act XX. of 1865, and furnish the —— with a copy of the charge against him, and give him notice fixing a day on which such charge will be considered ... 171

MORTGAGE.

(1) Where in consideration of a loan, a party agrees to leave his property in the hands of the lender for a term of years till the loan is liquidated, the transaction is not a lease but a usufructuary —— ... 331

(2) Where tenants, after mortgaging their land unknown to the landlord agree to pay an increased rent, and the property is sold in satisfaction of the —— debt, the landlord may recover the increased rent from the tenants or the party succeeding to their right and interest ... 448

See Declaratory Suit (3)
See Jurisdiction (24)
See Money-decree (1)
See Mortgagor (1)
See Redemption (1)
See Right of Suit 1)

MORTGAGOR.

Where the —— s of a talook on succeeding in a suit for redemption sue for a declaration of right to receive rent from certain under-tenants against whom defendant has gained a decree for rent, his case being that within the talook is a jumma purchased by him, and for which he pays rent to the mortgagee's putneedar: HELD that the real question is whether the jote jumma gives defendant a right to possession as against——s re-entering after redemption ... 517

MOURUSSEE JOTE.

See Accretion (2)

MOVEABLE PROPERTY.

The thatch of a house is ——, and a suit to recover its price if not exceeding Rs. 500 must be brought in a Small Cause Court ... 499

N.

NEPHEW.

A —— is entitled to a certificate of administration in preference to a deceased son's daughter's son ... 328

NEW TRIAL.

(1) A party obtaining a —— on particular materials, cannot go into fresh evidence when the rule comes on for hearing; though the Court may make further inquiry if necessary 161

(2) When ——s are moved for on allegation of facts, the facts should be stated, and the answer supported by affidavit ... *ib.*

(3) Where a judgment-debtor in a Small Cause Court gives notice under Section 21, Act XI. of 1865, that she will file her grounds for a —— on the next day of the Court's sitting, and files her application on the day following the next day, the Judge is right in proceeding to hear the application 281

NOTICE.

(1) How —— should be served where a respondent resides out of British territory ... 31

(2) A —— of enhancement treating a party not personally a cultivator but holding a jumma with ryots under him, as an ordinary ryot with right of occupancy, is not illegal or informal ... 56

(3) The objection of non-service of ——, though not taken in the Court

NOTICE—*(Continued).*

below, is allowed in special appeal when the suit infringes provisions of law for the substantial protection of the ryot, for whom Act X. was enacted ... 71

(4) A zemindar's —— on an occupier to pay rent at current rates for certain land declared by decree to be invalid lakheraj is simply a requisition to come to terms ... 272

(5) Service upon a respondent's pleaders is good service upon himself so far as —— of the appeal is concerned ... 290

(6) Where a —— of enhancement of rent of an intermediate tenure states plaintiff's right to enhance according to the special custom of the district, it is a good —— ... 335

(7) A decree obtained by plaintiff's vendor for a kubooleut at enhanced rates of rent creates a new contract between the parties, and where the vendor's whole title is conveyed to the plaintiff who gives defendant distinct ——, plaintiff is entitled to succeed in his suit to set aside the pottah. Case at 12 W. R., p. 299, distinguished ... 438

(8) A ryot need not give —— under Section 19, Act X. of 1859, or Section 20, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869, to entitle him to give up the land at the termination of a short lease under which he holds ... 454

(9) A —— that is sufficient to enable a tenant to contest the landlord's demand in the original suit and on regular appeal cannot be objected to as insufficient in special appeal 520

(10) Where a person holding land without paying rent is served with a —— either to quit or to pay a reasonable rent, his remaining must be taken to signify his assent to become a tenant, and he is liable to pay rent ... *ib.*

(11) A defendant cannot bring money into Court secretly on an *ex-parte* application without —— to plaintiff either before or after payment 560

See Caveat Emptor (1)
See Enhancement (13)
See Foreclosure (1)
See Intermediate Tenure (2)
See Sale (3) (6)
See Witness (1)

O.

OBJECTIONS

—— under Section 348, Act VIII., 1859, may be urged at any time in course of hearing of an appeal ... 18

See Certificate (3)

OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE.

See Insolvent (1)

ONUS PROBANDI.

(1) Where defendant, having ousted plaintiff, admits his alleged possession, but contends that it has been only permissive possession, as that of a tenant, not possession as owner ... 32

(2) In a suit to remove certain outlets in an aqueduct, on the allegation that plaintiff is entitled to the exclusive use of the water ... 83

(3) In a suit for declaration of plaintiff's reversionary title as heir to his uncle's property and for the reversal of a deed of sale from that uncle set up by defendant ... 96

(4) In a suit to set aside a sale in execution as a colorable, false, and collusive ... 131

(5) In a suit for possession and damages on the ground of wrongful occupancy ... 144

(6) Where plaintiff claims land as belonging to his putnee, and defendant alleges that it forms part of the resumed land of a jote for which he has obtained a decree in a resumption-suit; and the question at issue is whether the land is mâl as beyond the limits of the decree, or lakheraj as included in the chittahs according to which possession was given to defendant in execution ... 183

(7) Where an unsuccessful claimant under Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure, sues for confirmation of alleged possession and adjudication of title ... 202

(8) In a suit for possession where plaintiff claims under a pottah the execution of which is not denied by defendant, who contends that the lessor had no power to grant it ... 208

(9) In suits for confirmation of possession by adjudication of title ... 286

(10) In a suit to recover possession of land within plaintiff's estate where defendant sets up a rent-free title ... 299

(11) Where a ryot sues for a pottah at the rate fixed by the amulnamah given by defendant ... 420

(12) Where a landlord claims rent from a ryot holding under a short lease, for a period after the expiry of his lease ... 454

(13) Where plaintiff starts a *primâ-facie* case by alleging that the *bye-mokasa* set up by judgment's-debtor's wife was executed in fraud of creditors, and showing a sufficient motive for the fraud ... 507

ONUS PROBANDI—*(Continued).*

(14) Where a party claims to erect a bund in a natural flowing river so as entirely to cut off the water from another party... 516

See Act VIII. of 1859 (4)
See Declaratory Suit (2)
See Joint Hindoo Family (2)
See Limitation (3)

OWNERSHIP

—— in soil is not lost because the subject of it becomes submerged, the owner on re-formation taking whatever falls within his known boundaries. Ordinarily, there is no right of accretion when the new formation is on the site of what was formerly held by an individual as his private property 461

P.

PARTIES.

(1) In a suit to recover title-deeds,—— should not be admitted as defendants on the mere allegation of having lent money to defendant on security of the property ... 12

(2) In a suit against two persons, the Court may raise the issue whether one of them is solely liable; and one only being found liable, to pass a separate decree 69

(3) The Collector is not a necessary party in a suit to set aside his proceedings under Sections 11 and 12, Act XI. of 1859 112

See Reversioner (1)

PARTITION.

(1) Where plaintiff sues to obtain by—— half of an ancestral dwelling-house occupied by defendant, who avers that the house occupied by plaintiff is also ancestral, and that in a —— between them the houses they respectively occupied had fallen to their respective shares: HELD that the Court should inquire into the plaintiff's title, and as to whether he has a right to the —— of one without bringing the other into hatchpot 111

(2) Where a zemindar puts up a tenure for sale in separate lots, and takes rents from two of the purchasers separately, no *written* consent is necessary to his being bound to recognize the —— 255

(3) The fact of two brothers living in the same house is not conclusive of their being a joint family. Where co-parceners do not throw their rents and profits into a common fund, there is a —— between them, and they are not a joint family ... 442

PARTITION—*(Continued).*

See Joint Hindoo Family (5)
See Jurisdiction (13)

PARTNERSHIP.

In a suit for dissolution of —— there should be no absolute decree for a specific sum of outstanding balances; and no amount should be decreed without proof of its having been realized and misappropriated ... 352

See Jurisdiction (10)

PAUPER-SUIT.

(1) Where Government, after attaching a pauper-plaintiff's decree for value of stamps, lets the decree be sold in execution of another decree against the pauper, and obtains an order securing the chance of a surplus from such sale, it cannot, when there is no surplus, say that the decree was sold subject to its claim for stamps ... 205

(2) The amount of stamps in a —— is not a lien or charge upon the decree in favor of Government, but is recoverable in the same way as costs of suit ... *ib.*

PAYMENT.

See Notice (11)
See Regulation VIII. of 1819 (1)
See Tenant (1)

PLAINT.

A plaintiff starting such a case as that, in purchasing certain property, the knowledge of an existing encumbrance was fraudulently withheld, should tender himself as a witness and pledge his oath to the truth of the allegation ... 338

See Issues (3)

PLEA.

(1) In a suit by a dur-putneedar where defendant abandons in the first Court the —— that plaintiff cannot sue separately from his co-sharer, the —— cannot be entertained in the Lower Appellate Court 20

(2) Where an alleged adjustment on which a suit to recover money is brought has no existence, the suit is rightly dismissed 24

(3) A person deliberately executing a deed by which his own property is bound cannot set up as a —— that he did so to defraud others ... 273

See Ejectment (1)

PLEADER.

(1) Semble — A pleader who, having signed the memorandum of appeal, refuses to argue a case on the ground of being unable or unprepared, may be dealt with by the

PLEADER—*(Continued).*

Court for neglect of duty, or sued by his client for neglecting his interests ... 143

(2) A —— should not try to influence a Court by reference to a course adopted by another Court or to the view which the Appellate Court might take of its proceedings ... 173

See Act II. of 1855 (1)

See Act VIII. of 1859 (7)

PLEADINGS.

Where a suit under Act X. of 1859 having been decreed by the Collector on the ground of an *ex-parte* enquiry and report, plaintiff in appeal chooses to rely on the Collector's opinion, he cannot, after an adverse decision, supplement his case by other evidence ... 260

POSSESSION.

(1) In a suit for land claimed by both parties to have been re-claimed from jungle and possessed many years, and in respect of which pottahs had been obtained from Government, the lands being included in plaintiff's pottah does not entitle him to a decree ... 45

(2) —— by receipt and enjoyment of rent is as good in law as actual occupation, and Section 230, Act VIII., 1859, is not restricted to personal occupation ... 70

(3) Adverse —— for more than 12 years is of itself sufficient to create a title 80

(4) —— given to one of two joint holders of a decree is given on behalf of both ... 112

(5) Where it is decreed that plaintiffs are entitled to the value of certain trees, as they had cut them down, until the Civil Court's final decision with regard to the title to the land: HELD that this is not a finding that the successful party is in possession 276

(6) In a suit for——, a general consideration of the question of boundaries should not be gone into till the spots of land claimed are accurately ascertained ... 314

(7) Plaintiff suing for —— as his uncle's heir, where the uncle left daughters entitled to succeed, is not entitled to a decree even if defendant is in wrongful possession of the daughter's shares ... 324

(8) As the separate —— by partition is a form of decree at the option of a plaintiff suing for a separation of a property to which she is jointly entitled with defendant, the Court must grant her request to re-frame the decree so as to award —— in

POSSESSION—*(Continued).*

severalty without regard to any stamp fee ... 511

See Act VIII. of 1859 (1)

See Limitation (13)

See Mahomedan Widow (1)

See Onus Probandi (1)

POSSESSORY SUIT.

See Evidence (14)

See Limitation (2)

POTTAH.

(1) A —— granted by a Court of Wards without any term of years must be considered as not extending over ten years, after which, on the lessee's refusal to make a fresh settlement, the Collector may settle with other parties ... 116

(2) The issue whether a pottah is tendered or not, if not raised in the first Court, cannot be raised in the Lower Appellate Court ... 410

(3) The fact of a —— coming from custody corroborated by the exact identity of the grantor's signature with his admitted signature on other documents is, in the absence of attesting witnesses, proof of its genuineness 493

(4) A —— giving land for building purposes, and reciting that there should be no abatement of rent or increase of jumma, grants the land at the rate then fixed for ever ... *ib.*

See Amulnamah (1)

See Enhancement (11)

PRE-EMPTION.

(1) A right of——attaches to the sale of a share of a zemindaree in the case of a co-sharer, though it may not on the ground of vicinage ... 223

(2) The right of —— does not attach to property: the obligation it implies may be limited to the residents of a district or to a family or class of persons, it being for claimant to show that it attaches to defendant ... *ib.*

(3) *Khuleet* applies to a pre-emptor both in the first and second degrees ... 22

(4) Public thoroughfares give no right of —— ... *ib.*

(5) The right to —— of a partner in the substance applies only where there is a partner in the whole property *ib.*

(6) A party cannot exercise the right of —— after relinquishing it at the time of sale and purchase ...247

(7) Where certain brothers execute an ikrarnamah providing that no separation shall take place without the consent of all, and that, if any one wished to dispose of his share, he shall give his brothers the preference: HELD that the privilege of

PRE-EMPTION—*(Continued).*

—— cannot be exercised where the sale of the share of one is an act of the Court ... 455

PRESCRIPTION

—— is founded on the presumption of a grant from long-continued uninterrupted user and enjoyment as of right ... 212

See Rights (1)

PRESUMPTION.

Until the contrary is shown, the —— is that a judgment of a Lower Court is right: the benefit of any doubt should be given to the respondent, not the appellant ... 228

See Joint Hindoo Family (4) (7)

PRIEST.

See Jurisdiction (42)

See Right of Suit (9)

PRIVY COUNCIL.

See Costs (4)

See High Court (1)

PROBATE.

See Court Fees Act (3)

See Stamp (1)

See Will (1)

PROCEDURE.

(1) In a suit to recover possession of a share of an estate on the ground of purchase at an execution-sale, which share is alleged to have been sold to another party at an execution-sale under Act XI., 1859, and where plaintiff's purchase is found not *bonâ fide*, the right, &c., of the decree-holder having been previously purchased *benamee* by judgment-debtor himself ... 54

(2) Security taken from the holder of a certificate of administration should not be returned till the time allowed for an opposing claimant has expired ... 108

(3) Where an application is made at a late stage to enforce the provisions of Section 159, Act VIII., 1859, without proffer of the proof required by that Section, the Lower Appellate Court is right in not postponing the case ... 176

(4) Where there is reason for thinking that the claim of a party complaining under Section 230, Civil Procedure Code, of having been dispossessed in execution of a decree to which he was not a party is *bonâ fide*, the Court should treat the case as a regular suit between claimant as plaintiff and decree-holder and judgment-debtor as defendants ... 209

PROCEDURE—*(Continued).*

(5) The Appellate Court cannot decide a case *ex parte* without considering the evidence, because a memorandum of objections under Section 354, Act VIII., 1859, has not been filed ... 235

(6) A plaintiff giving no evidence in support of his claim is not entitled to a decree because the defendant has given none ... 253

(7) The Court should apply the provisions of Section 170, Civil Procedure Code, where a defendant contumaciously refuses to appear in answer to a summons ... *ib.*

(8) How a party may satisfy the High Court that a point which the Judge omitted to notice was actually taken in the oral pleadings ... 296

(9) Where the Judge of an Appellate Court does not consider the evidence taken by the Court of first instance sufficient, and that he can legally require more evidence to be taken, he ought to proceed in the manner provided for in Sections 354 to 357 of the Code of Civil Procedure, but cannot set aside the first Court's decree or remand the case for re-trial ... 314

(10) Where there is no evidence on the record on a question at issue between the parties, the Appellate Court, in remanding the case under Section 354, Act VIII. of 1859, should direct such evidence with the first Court's finding to be sent up for decision 346

(11) A Judge should not make for defendant a case which the latter does not make for himself ... 363

(12) Where the Lower Appellate Court admits an application under Section 119, Act VIII. of 1859, for re-trial of a case decided *ex parte*, it does right to send for the record that the case as a suit may be tried by the Appellate Court ... 431

(13) A Judge in appeal should not dismiss a claim *in toto* with all costs because it is exaggerated, if there is ground for plaintiff's contention... 465

(14) In construing a sale-certificate, the Court must try and ascertain what was intended to be sold: a mere misdescription does not defeat the purchaser's rights ... 490

(15) Directly an intervenor's name has been struck off on the ground that he has no interest in the case, all the evidence he has put in should be removed from the record ... 572

See Act VIII. of 1859 (5)

See Appellate Court (1)

See Appeal (7)

PROCEDURE—*(Continued).*

See Documents (2) (3)
See Evidence (2)
See Enhancement (2)
See Ex-parte (4) (5)
See Grounds of Appeal (1)
See Jurisdiction (27) (28)
See Onus Probandi (6)
See Regulation II. of 1819 (1)

PROCEEDINGS.

(1) A decree-holder objecting on the score of non-jurisdiction after the result of the —— he has carried on has proved unfavorable, cannot institute ——*de novo* unless he pays all the judgment-debtor's costs ... 48
(2) The rule approved by the Privy Council with reference to the term "some proceeding" in Section 20, Act XIV. 1859, applies to the act of a Nazir in conducting a sale and remitting the proceeds to the Collector, and of a decree-holder in drawing out a portion of those proceeds ... 182
(3) In —— such as the deputation for a local investigation, of a person other than the appointed officer, it is assumed that what the Lower Court does is done rightly ... 291
See Decree (7)
See Execution (17) (20)

PROPRIETARY RIGHTS.

See Lakherajdars (2)

PURCHASE-MONEY.

In a suit for completion of a contract and delivery of property where the purchaser had refused to pay up unless vendor paid costs of registration, and the latter re-sold the property, plaintiff is bound, if he has not previously tendered the money, to pay it into Court ... 44
See Contract (1)

PURCHASER.

(1) A —— at a sale for arrears of revenue, with a paramount title under Section 37, Act XI. of 1859, acquires the estate free from any incumbrance accruing from the laches of former proprietors ... 552
(2) In the absence of contrary proof, a —— at a sale for arrears of revenue with a paramount title under Section 37, Act XI. of 1859, must be assumed to be the owner ... *ib.*
See Appeal (3) (9)
See Execution (15)
See Right of Way (5)

PUTNEE.

Where a —— dar is disturbed by a zemindar, he is not liable for the kists which he is prevented from collecting. A —— dar sold out is not liable for the rent of the month in which the zemindar presents the petition ... 180
(2) The grant of a —— tenure by a shebait may be valid ... 228
(3) A —— lease pledging the putneedar to give no dur-putnee or mokurruree lease at a less jummah than that of the ——, does not confer the power described in Clause I, Section 11, Regulation VIII. of 1819. ... 445
(4) A portion of a —— tenure cannot be said under Regulation VIII. of 1819; and an auction-purchaser acquiring any of the putneedar's rights, is bound by the acts of the latter as regards the grant of leases 446
See Enhancement (11)
See Right of Occupancy (5)
See Right of Suit (7) (8)

PUTNEEDAR.

See Regulation VIII. of 1819 (1)

R.

RAJ.

See Custom (1) (2)
See Inheritance (2)
See Succession (2)

RECORDS

—— from a Government office must be sent for by the Court; papers from a Court of Wards must be obtained by the party needing them, by means of a summons on the proper Officer ... 150

REDEMPTION.

A mortgagor's right of——is indefeasible, and cannot be interfered with by unauthorized acts of the mortgagee. ... 353

REFUND.

See Interest (1)
See Rent (1)

REGISTRATION.

(1) A kubooleut for one year containing a provision extending the term, is not evidence without —— ... 170
(2) A zemindar must look only to his registered tenant; the equivalent of —— being presumed where he receives rents from his tenant in recognition of his tenancy ... 211
(3) The —— of a usufructuary mortgage bond, where the amount advanced is less than Rs. 100, is optional under Sections 13 and 16, Act XVI. of 1864. ... 331
(4) Where a bond pledges land for sums to be hereafter advanced not exceeding Rs. 100, and this amount

REGISTRATION—*(Continued).*

is exceeded by the sums actually advanced, the bond should be registered under Section 17, Act XX. of 1866 ... 364

(5) It is not necessary for a Judge to take evidence before directing —— ... 487

(6) Mere —— does not prevent a party from suing to contest the fact of the execution of the document ... *ib.*

(7) —— of an istemraree pottah the execution of which is denied, raises a cloud on the landlord's title and warrants a suit for its removal ... *ib.*

(8) The necessity of —— must be determined by the value of the consideration stated in the deed ... 558

See Act XX. of 1866 (1)
See Agreement (1)
See Contract (3)

REGULATION VIII. OF 1793.

The "dependant talookdars" mentioned in —— are actual proprietors ... 474

REGULATION XIX. OF 1793.

Section 10. *See Lakheraj Grants* (1)
See Resumption (1)

REGULATION XXVII. OF 1793.

Section 5 has no application to bazars which did not exist in 1793 ... 48

REGULATION V. OF 1799.

Property taken possession of by the Magistrate as *lawaris* should be made over to the custody of the Civil Court in the manner contemplated by section 7 ——, and the Civil Court should treat the property as practically in its own temporary care ... 302

REGULATION XIX. OF 1814.

See Jurisdiction (37)

REGULATION V. OF 1817.

Section 8. *See Treasure* (1) (2)

REGULATION II. OF 1819.

Decrees made under —— prior to 25th January 1865 for the resumption of grants of later date than 1st December 1790, are not void; error in procedure not *per se* rendering void a decree which the Court was competent to make ... 440

See Lakheraj (3) *Resumption* (2) (3)

REGULATION VIII. OF 1819.

There is nothing in —— empowering a putneedar to deposit rent in the Judge's Court or Collectorate before the day of sale, or giving such payment the effect of a payment to his zemindar or agent ... 560

Section 11, Clause 1. *See Putnee* (3) (4)
Section 8, Clause 3. *See Putnee* (1)

REGULATION VIII. OF 1819—*(Continued).*

See Application (1)
See Notice (11)
See Rent (1)

REGULATION VII. OF 1822.

Section 15. *See Lakherajdars.*

REGULATION XI. OF 1825.

Section 4. *See Accretion* (1)

RE-HEARING.

See Act VIII. of 1859 (9)
See Ex-parte (2)

REMAND.

A case remanded by a District Judge for the purpose of a local inquiry cannot be transferred to a Subordinate Judge for disposal ... 574

See Intervention (1)
See Procedure (9) (10)

RE-MARRIAGE.

See Mahomedan Law (3)

REMISSION.

(1) A zemindar receiving —— from Government, on account of damage to his estate by a cyclone, is not bound to allow a——to his under-tenants unless he had received them on that understanding ... 167

(2) A ryot has no claim in law to ——, which rests solely on the landlord's discretion ... 270

RENT.

(1) A dur-putneedar paying money as —— to save a putnee from sale, is entitled to a refund although his name is not registered ... 125

(2) The price for the use of land in its improved state is —— which can be sued for in the Collector's Court, whatever the nature of the improvement may be ... 463

See Act X. of 1859 (3)
See Arbitration Award (2)
See Building (3)
See Jurisdiction (36)
See Liability (3)

RENT SUIT.

(1) Unless the circumstances of one—— are on all fours with those of another, the Court's judgment in one case cannot supply reasons for its decision in the other ... 2

(2) A suit for arrears of rent of land alleged to be held over and above the quantity covered by the pottah, is in substance a suit for rent at an enhanced rate and requires a notice under Section 13, Act X., 1859 ... 71

RENT SUIT—*(Continued).*

(3) A zemindar is not bound to recognize as his tenant one whose name is not registered in his books; and it is sufficient for him to bring his —— against the parties from whom he has hitherto received rent 99

(4) Where rents are not sued for within 3 years from the end of the year for which they are due, the fact that damages were awarded against the plaintiff in a former suit for not giving receipts for that year will not create a cause of action ... 194

(5) A —— is not maintainable by one or more of several co-sharers unless they have been accustomed to collect their rents separately ... 243

(6) Where A covenants to rent from B 18 beegahs of land at one rupee a beegah, stipulating to pay at that rate for any excess found, he is liable to pay at that rate for excess, and the tender of a pottah by B is not necessary 410

(7) A suit by a sharer in a joint undivided estate for his share of the rent of an under-tenure, falls within the provisions of Section 108, Act X. of 1859 524

(8) Where the owner of an undivided estate lets his share to a tenant, a suit for the rent of such share, treated as a separate under-tenure, may come under the provisions of Section 4, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865 ... ... *ib.*

See Cause of Action (3)
See Jurisdiction (20)

REPRESENTATION.

Where appellant dies after the appeal has been filed and vakeel instructed, the Administrator-General is allowed to appear although regular letters have not been taken out; but when the application is not made within a reasonable time, the appeal is dimissed 58

RES ADJUDICATA.

(1) The cause of action cannot be said to be —— if the first case was disposed of on appeal on a purely technical point 208

(2) A defendant cannot, under a plea of set-off, set up a claim for which a suit has been previously brought by him and been dismissed ... 252

(3) Where *N* and *G* are heirs according to Hindoo law of *S*, whose property, however, is taken by *M* under an alleged will, and *G's* suit for a moiety is dismissed, *N* who refused to join him as co-plaintiff is not bound by the finding in that suit in regard to the validity of the will 309

(4) A suit in which the cause of action is breach of contract, should, under Section 7, Civil Procedure Code, include plaintiff's whole claim. A subsequent suit to recover sums due, is barred... 408

(5) A decree in a suit for a kubooleut at an enhanced rate, is no bar under Section 2, Act VIII. of 1859, to a suit for a declaration of the rights of the present plaintiff to hold the land in lieu of maintenance on payment of a quit-rent, which cannot be tried by a Collector... ... 424

(6) Where a suit for removal of an alleged nuisance is dismissed because plaintiff has failed to prove his case, there has been an adjudication, and another suit will not lie on the same cause of action ... 573

See Act VIII. of 1859 (6)
See Estoppel (1)
See Jurisdiction (3)

RESUMPTION.

(1) Where a zemindar has obtained an *ex-parte* decree declaring certain lands to be his mâl lands, his only remedy is to have the rates determined under which he is authorized to collect rents under Section 10, Regulation XIX. of 1793, and to obtain a kubooleut, and he must sue in the Collector's Court under Clause 1, Section 23, Act X. of 1859 ... 345

(2) In a suit for —— it does not follow from the adoption by the Court of a procedure only sanctioned in special cases provided for by Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, that the decree is made under that Regulation ... 440

(3) Where even a —— decree is made under Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, bearing an earlier date than the Full Bench Ruling of 25th January 1865, it would not establish that the grant resumed was of earlier date than 1st December 1790 ... *ib.*

See Lakheraj (2)
See Lakherajdars (2)
See Limitation (15)
See Mokurruree (2)
See Notice (4)
See Regulation II. of 1890.

REVERSIONER.

(1) In a suit to recover property held by a widow, the —— is erroneously made a co-defendant ... 6

(2) Where a husband leaves his Hindoo widow property to be enjoyed for

REVERSIONER—*(Continued)*.

her lifetime, and after her death it is to become the absolute property of his adopted son, and the son dies before the widow, the claim of the son's heirs to inherit in succession to him is postponed till the widow's death ... 63

(3) A reversionary heir to his uncle's property may sue during the lifetime of the widow for a declaratory decree to the effect that an alienation will not bind him in the event of his surviving the widow ... 96

(4) The possession in right of inheritance of a widowed daughter having sons alive, is not adverse to a —— ... 147

See Arrears of Rent (2)
See Limitation (1)
See Onus Probandi (3)

REVIEW.

(1) A Lower Appellate Court should not allow points to be explained away in the —— stage by admitting additional evidence ... 9

(2) Where an appeal is dismissed in the absence of appellant who has been refused postponement, he may apply for a re-hearing or a —— of judgment, but is not entitled to appeal specially ... 143

(3) The use in a petition of the words হানি তজবিজ does not make it an application for —— under Section 376, Code of Civil Procedure, where it is clearly and distinctly one under Section 119 for a re-trial in the presence of the petitioner ... 431

See Costs (5)
See Limitation (5)
See Stamp (3)

RIGHT.

(1) Where in a dispute about land plaintiff has failed to prove his title as owner, he has no right to fall back upon a title by prescription ... 84

(2) A plaintiff's claim must stand or fall upon the strength of his own —— *ib.*

(3) A Commissioner's amulnamah cannot destroy legal —— seven if no protest or objection be made ... 141

(4) —— of fishing in a navigable river does not belong to the public, and the Government may grant it to an individual ... 212

(5) Deprivation of the —— to a rise of water is an injury; and a claim to repair a bund to secure such —— is not answered by the tender of another bund ... 216

See Appeal (9)
See Butwarrah (1)
See Right of Suit (9)
See Special Appeal (10)
See Summons (1)

RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY.

(1) Where occupants of land, declared liable to assessment, abandon it owing to criminal proceedings against them, and others to whom it is leased, and who have held possession paying rent for upwards of 12 years, are ousted by the original occupants who claim the land rent-free: HELD in a suit by the leasees that they are entitled to recover possession 121

(2) The —— stated in Section 6, Act X. of 1859, cannot be transferred except as laid down in that Act; the transferree not being entitled to make up his —— by adding the time during which his predecessor held the jote 152

(3) A zemindar cannot eject tenants holding for more than 12 years, even though they were originally tenants-at-will 231

(4) A proprietor allowing a party to occupy a portion of his land without any reservation of right or limitation to him individually, gives permission in the ordinary way; and the occupant cannot be turned-out at a moment's notice or prevented from transferring his right, though he may be sued for rent... 275

(5) A mere change of proprietary title does not entitle a putneeder who holds from the new proprietor, to eject a tenant holding a —— ... 417

(6) A zemindar occupying his own lands as nij-jote, cannot, when the zemindaree passes out of his hands, claim them as a ryot with —— ... 430

(7) By holding for 12 years land sub-let by a ryot having a ——, a ryot does not acquire a —— 469

See Tenure (2)

RIGHT OF SUIT.

(1) A suit may be brought for declaration of right to have a mortgaged property put up for sale, although the property has passed into other hands under a money-decree on a mortgage-bond 27

(2) The purchaser of property from a judgment-debtor whose right, &c., have been since sold to another party who desires possession, has a —— for declaration of title that it may be cleared from the suspicion of a collusive sale 95

(3) Where a party taking a part of the consideration-money in advance retains the deed of sale, the other party may bring a suit to recover the deed or compel the execution of a fresh document 189

RIGHT OF SUIT—*(Continued).*

(4) A person failing to take advantage of the remedy provided by Section 14, Act III. of 1857, is not prohibited from bringing an action for damages in a Civil Court ... 279
(5) The assignee of a zemindar's right to receive rent has a —— in a Civil Court whether the assignment has been effected by the intervention of the Civil Court or the private act of the zemindar ... 344
(6) Where property in which two members of a Hindoo family are jointly interested is sold for the payment of a debt jointly contracted, the son of one of them cannot sue to recover his own, or his own and his father's share, in the absence of the other ... 436
(7) An auction-purchaser at a sale for arrears creating a putnee cannot sue to annul an under-tenure within that putnee: this only the putneedar can do ... 481
(8) A putneedar's —— to annul a sub-tenure is not affected by his being tenant of only a portion of the estate, provided the portion contains the tenure to be resumed ... *ib.*
(9) A party seeking to establish his right to share in the ministrations of officiating priests may bring a civil suit to have his rights ascertained and declared, if based partly on contested kobalahs and partly on the right of succession ... 531
See Act XXV. of 1861 (1)
See Agent (2)
See Butwarra (2) (4)
See Ejectment (1)
See Jurisdiction (30)
See Lakherajdars (1)
See Limitation (1)
See Registration (6)
See Rent Suit (5)
See Special Appeal (11)

RIGHT OF WAY.

(1) A right of thoroughfare includes a —— for marriage or other processions, unless excluded at the first inception of the right ... 46
(2) To establish a ——, uninterrupted user for a certain length of time must be proved; if the right is interrupted, the party must go into Court at once ... 295
(3) No length of time can give a party a —— which destroys all the ordinary uses of the servient property ... *ib.*
(4) Where the —— is simply to pass from one point to another, the party desiring to exercise it cannot claim to pass in a particular tortuous and indirect course between the two points ... 496
(5) The purchaser of a house acquires the —— enjoyed with the house by the vendor, if it is not merely a right to a way of necessity, but a particular right over a defined path ... 526

RIGHTS OF WORSHIP.

(1) A right to a turn of worship is not a recurring cause of action, and a suit to enforce it is governed by Clause 16, Section 1, Act XIV., 1859 ... 29
(2) The —— of a Hindoo idol cannot be sold in execution of a decree for personal debt of a shebait ... 339

RULE NISI.

See Limitation (12)

RYOT.

See Notice (2)

S.

SALE.

(1) The —— of a portion of an undivided talook corresponding with the share of the rent for which the sharer has a decree has the effect of a —— in which the right of the judgment-debtor is sold ... 6
(2) A —— under Act VIII., 1835, does not convey a tenure free from incumbrances, unless the documents creating the tenure provide for its ——for arrears of rent ... 11
(3) Non-service of notice in the Mofussil is sufficient ground for setting aside a —— for arrears of rent ... 17
(4) In setting aside an execution —— under Act X., the Court is bound to provide for the decree-holder's claim being satisfied ... 58
(5) In a —— under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865, the whole tenure is sold, the purchaser acquiring it free of all incumbrances ... 99
(6) A —— for arrears under Act XI. of 1859, where previous notice has not been given, warrants the Court in annulling the —— under Section 33 ... 137
(7) In a ——, under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865, of the rights and interests of the judgment-debtor, the tenure does not pass, much less does it pass free of incumbrances; and the purchaser cannot eject tenants occupying for more than 12 years ... 234
(8) Where a deed of —— is executed under circumstances suggesting an intention to defraud creditors, the Court must be satisfied that consideration has actually passed and as to the source from which the purchase-money was derived ... 305

SALE—*(Continued).*

(9) The purchaser of a tenure inherited by a Hindoo widow and sold for arrears under Act VIII. of 1835 does not acquire merely personal rights, nor do his rights cease at her death 329

(10) All ——s by Small Cause Court Judges should be conducted strictly in accordance with Section 251, Act VIII., 1859; but where property of small value sold in execution of a decree of considerable amount is purchased by the decree-holder, his receipts may be accepted as cash, but provision must be made for realizing all fees of Court 368

(11) A —— in execution of a decree purchased by one of the judgment-debtors is invalid; and the purchaser cannot pretend to rely on any legal right under proceedings valid upon the face of them, and of the invalidity of which he had no means of informing himself ... 374

See Act X. of 1859 (1)
See Act XI. of 1859.
See Application (1)
See Arrears of Rent (2)
See Incumbrance (1)
See Joint Hindoo Family (7)
See Limitation (4)
See Onus Probandi (4)
See Purchaser (1)

SECURITY.

The question of the sufficiency of the —— tendered by an insolvent must be determined by the Lower Court 571

SEPARATE PROPRIETORSHIP.

A Commissioner's order to proprietors of separate jummas to pay through one of their number does not override their legal right of ——, or transform it into a joint tenancy... 141

SET-OFF.

(1) Where the purchaser of a decree proceeds to execution under Section 208, Code of Civil Procedure, the judgment-debtor cannot be allowed a —— on account of joint-decrees obtained by himself and others against the vendor subsequent to the sale of the purchased decree ... 127

(2) Even where joint decrees are obtained by judgment-debtor and others against the vendor of a decree before the sale of the decree, they cannot be —— against the purchaser under Section 209 ... *ib.*

See Res Judicata (2)

SHAREHOLDER.

The purchaser of a ——'s rights cannot retain possession against a person who buys the tenure itself when sold for arrears under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865. ... 319

SHEBAIT

See Hindoo Law (3)
See Putnee (2)

SMALL CAUSE COURT.

See Act XI. of 1865 (1)
See Act XX. of 1866 (1)
See Criminal Procedure Code (1)
See Insolvency (1)
See Interest (2)
See Judgment-debtor (2)
See Jurisdiction (16) (24) (30) (31) (32) (33)
See Moveable Property (1)
See New Trial (1) (2) (3)
See Sale (10)
See Title (1) (3)

SOLEHNAMAH.

The effect of a ——confirming the rent of a tenure on the part of the manager of ancestral property, and agreeing that it shall not be enhanced, is to confer on the tenant a mourosee mokurruree right at a fixed rent ... 434

See Decree (7)
See Evidence (8)

SPECIAL APPEAL.

(1) Instructions as to how grounds of —— should be drawn up ... 8

(2) Where money borrowed by a servant on account of his master is not repaid by the master, and a decree being taken out against the servant, he sues the master to recover the money, the action is one for debt within the meaning of Section 6 of the Small Cause Court Act, and no —— lies ... 86

(3) Plaintiff failing to mention the first Court's refusal to examine his witnesses in his grounds of appeal to the Lower Appellate Court cannot urge it in —— ... 87

(4) In a —— the general affirmation of a judgment can only refer to the points raised by the appellant ... 91

(5) Under Section 350, Act VIII., 1859, the High Court does not interfere where the Lower Appellate Court's decision on the question of stamps does not affect the case on the merits 179

(6) The High Court is bound to notice an argument on a point of law raised in ——, although not raised when it passed an order of remand ... 180

(7) —— is not barred in a claim under a bond for less than 500 rupees where the property pledged under the bond is made liable ... 265

(8) If the reasons in a judgment are such as can be rightly given, and the inferences such as can be legally drawn, it cannot be set aside in —— 303

(9) A —— will not lie from the order of a Lower Appellate Court refusing,

SPECIAL APPEAL—*(Continued).*

in the exercise of its discretion, to admit additional evidence ... 429

(10) *Quære.*—Can the right of —— be sold in execution? ... 485

(11) Where the Courts below find adversely to the title of a Hindoo widow suing jointly with her sons to hold the land in dispute as separate property, her sons are not competent without her to prefer a —— ... 536

See Damages (2)
See Review (2)
See Title (3)

SPECIFIC LIABILITY.

Where a joint decree cannot be passed, the —— of each co-sharer must be clearly established ... 52

STAMP.

(1) The —— requisite for an application for probate or letters of administration need not be proportionate to the value of the property involved 40

(2) —— duty is not chargeable on an application by a witness for the return of a document filed in obedience to a summons ... 237

(3) An applicant not informed at the time that his petition is insufficiently ——ed cannot, at the time of hearing, be refused permission to make up the proper valuation ... 278

(4) An appeal from a declaratory decree giving consequential relief should bear an *ad-valorem* —— duty ... 412

See Act XVIII. of 1869 (1)
See Court Fees Act (1) (2) (3)
See Pauper Suit (1) (2)
See Possession (8)
See Special Appeal (5)

SUCCESSION.

Where there are rival claimants, the right of —— to a Raj must be determined by the custom as known to the public functionaries of the district, as recognized by the family of the late Rajah, and as established by precedents ... 375

See Hindoo Law (1) (4)

SUMMONS.

A party to a suit has a legal right to apply for a —— to a witness or for a commission to examine one; and the Court should grant the application as a matter of course ... 447

SURETY.

(1) Where a —— permits money placed with him for the purpose of indemnifying the co-sureties to be withdrawn, he loses his remedy against the co-sureties to the extent of the security ... 185

SURETY—*(Continued).*

(2) Each —— should see that money placed in the hands of sureties for the purpose for which they have become sureties is not mis-applied 185

(3) Where, on an appeal being at first dismissed for default, the —— for the performance of the decree produces a certificate (without notice to appellant) that the appeal has been dismissed, an order discharging the —— and cancelling the bond is erroneous and invalid ... 538

See Cause of Action (5)
See Execution (21)
See Liability (1) (4)

SURVEY MAP.

See Evidence (1) (6)

T.

TALOOKDAR.

See Regulation VIII. of 1793 (1)

TENANCY.

See Assignment (1)
See Notice (10)
See Solehnamah (1)

TENANT.

Where a —— is compelled to pay his landlord's debt to save his own security from forfeiture, this is a sufficient authority to make the payment ... 545

TENURE.

(1) A zemindar is not bound to recognize the sale of a non-transferable ——; nor can the liability for rent be distributed without his consent under Section 27, Act X. of 1859... 360

(2) A bhowlee —— may be a goozashta ——; and a ryot paying rent in kind and in possession of land for a period of 12 years has a right of occupancy ... 479

THIRD PARTY.

In a suit to establish title to land alleged by defendants to be in possession of third parties, these parties are rightly made defendants; and if they have been wrongly so made, the onus will remain with the plaintiffs ... 97

TITLE.

(1) A decision come to by a Small Cause Court on an incidental question of —— is not conclusive except as regards the claim in that suit ... 166

(2) Plaintiff is estopped from adducing in a future suit a —— which he ought to have urged in a former suit ... 168

(3) Where the Lower Appellate Court fails to determine a question of —— arising in a suit triable by a Small

TITLE—*(Continued).*

Cause Court, and needing to be determined before plaintiff can get a decree, a special appeal is admissible ... 556

See Possession (1) (3)
See Right of Suit (2)

TRANSFER.

(1) Any application as to a matter prior to, or affecting, a decree transferred by the operation of Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869 and Act III. of 1870 must be made to the Court which passed it ... 75

(2) A ryot making a —— of a non-transferable tenure is liable for the rent, but the landlord is not entitled to khas possession ... 261

(3) Where rent is recovered without objection by successive landlords from the transferee of an intermediate tenure from the date of ——, such receipt is an acceptance by the proprietor of the new tenant in place of the old ... 321

See Jurisdiction (43)
See Right of Occupancy (2) (4)
See Remand (1)

TREASURE.

(1) Under Section 8, Regulation V. of 1817, the finder of —— loses his right to it if he does not notify his discovery to the Zillah Judge within one month ... 525

(2) Any custom there might have been in respect to the ownership of discovered —— is done away with by the enactment of Regulation V. of 1817 ... *ib.*

TRUST PROPERTY.

See Court Fees Act (2)

U.

UNDER-TENURE.

An under-tenant who has dug a tank and been in possession undisturbed by the former proprietor for a long period, such acquiescence being equivalent to a lease, cannot be ejected by the putneedar ... 481

USER.

(1) Where a party enjoying the permissive use of the water of a tank does not use it for 4 years from the date of its excavation, the permission may be taken to be revoked ... 308

(2) Wrongful interruption does not destroy a right of —— where steps are immediately taken to assert the right; otherwise acquiescence may be safely presumed ... 401

(3) The long use of a house by the public, with the consent of the proprietor, as a house of prayer, entitles the public by way of implied grant to the occupation of it as such ... 505

See Easement (1)
See Onus Probandi (14)
See Prescription (1)
See Right (5)
See Right of Way (2)

W.

WAIVER.

See Pre-emption (6)

WATER-COURSE.

In giving judgment for plaintiff in a suit to compel the filling up of a *pyne* which runs over plaintiff's estate, and conveys water to defendant's estate, the Court must show how his right has been infringed, and what defendant is bound to do 154

WIDOWED DAUGHTER.

See Reversioner (4)

WILL.

A person not next of kin, and having no interest in testator's estate, cannot oppose the grant of probate or dispute the validity of the —— ... 351

See Inheritance (1)
See Mahomedan Law (1)

WITNESS.

(1) After the list of ——es has been filed and the tullubana paid, the Court's officers are responsible for the service and return of notice ... 88

(2) The refusal to have ——es re-examined is justified in the absence of any new reason for the re-examination 348

WRONG-DOER.

A —— is not entitled to withhold property from its lawful owner on the ground of fraud, which has in no way affected his own status or position 80

Z.

ZEMINDAR.

A——'s right to receive rent from a farmer depends on his securing to him quiet possession and proper means of realizing rents from his tenants 236

See Right of Occupancy (6)

ZUR-I-PESHGEEDAR.

Where a —— abandoning his right to possession under his lease obtained a decree for money advanced, which gave no specific remedy against the property leased to him, his lease must be held to have terminated 313

TABLE OF CASES

(CIVIL RULINGS).

A.

Abdool Kureem *vs.* Abdool Huq Kazee ... 12
Abdool Mannah *vs.* Buroda Kant Banerjee 394
Abdoollah Khan *vs.* Sreekunto Proshad Hajrah 252
Abid Hossein *vs.* Mussamut Reazun ... 302
Ahmed Ali *vs.* Bhoobun Mohun Doss ... 517
Ahmed Reza *vs.* Mussamut Khujoorunnissa 469
Ahmedoollah *vs.* Gour Huree Biswas ... 251
Ajoodhya Doss *vs.* Bibee Misrun 176
Ajoodhya Pershad *vs.* Kristo Dyal ... 165
Akbur Ali *vs.* Mahomed Faiz Buksh ... 12
Akhoot Ramanah *vs.* Ahmed Eusoofjee ... 538
Akhoy Ram Shahajee *vs.* Ram Kant Roy 223
Allender *vs.* Dwarkanath Roy 320
Altaf Hossein *vs.* Grish Chunder Roy ... 556
Amanutoollah *vs.* Russick Chunder Chatterjee 136
Ameer Ali *vs.* Saheb Singh 530
Ameer Ali Sowdagur *vs.* Imamooddeen ... 145
Ameeree Begum *vs.* Gobind Pandey ... 35
Amrit Nath Jha *vs.* Roy Dhunput Singh... 503
Anonymous 237
Anonymous 506
Anund Chunder Paul *vs.* Punchee Lall Soor 257
Anund Moyee Dossee *vs.* Mohendro Narain Doss 264
Anwar Jan Bibee *vs.* Azmut Ali ... 26
Aree Murdun Bhuggut *vs.* Jannath Bhuggut 328
Asadut Dowla Reza Hossein *vs.* Hamisud Dowla Abed 204
Asgur Ali Shikdar *vs.* Mothoora Nath Ghose 354
Asseemoonissa *vs.* Ameeroonissa Khatoon 285
Attimoollah *vs.* Shaikh Saheboollah ... 149
Aukhil Chunder Mookerjee *vs.* Sib Narain Ghose 527

B.

Banee Madhub Lahoree *vs.* Bipro Doss Dey 69
Banee Pershad *vs.* Radha Pershad Singh... 143
Beejoy Chunder Banerjee *vs.* Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee 427
Beresford, In the goods of 456
Bhally Mahomed Bukshee *vs.* Nobin Chunder Roy Chowdhry 269
Bheekumbur Singh *vs.* Raj Chunder Ghose 196
Bhekdharee Singh *vs.* Kishen Pershad Singh 106
Bholanath Mookerjee *vs.* Grish Mohinee Debia 259
Bhoobun Mohinee Dossee *vs.* Dhonaye Karigur 434
Bhoobun Mohun Bose, *Petitioner* ... 571
Bhoobun Mohun Burral *vs.* Sreemuttee Nagoree Dassia 15
Bhoobun Mohun Mundul *vs.* Rash Beharee Paul 84
Bhugeeruth Adhikaree *vs.* Tarinee Chunder Pakrassee 413
Bhyrub Sircar *vs.* Sham Manjee 70
Bibee Ameerun, In the goods of 496
Bibee Wuheedun *vs.* Syud Wusee Hossein 403
Bidya Soonduree Dossee, *Petitioner* ... 267
Bindoobashinee Dossee *vs.* Rainey ... 307
Binode Beharee Roy *vs.* Masseyk... ... 493
Bishoroop Hazrah *vs.* Dumountee Debia... 537
Bishto Chunder Chuckerbutty *vs.* Woomanath Roy Chowdhry 459
Bissessuree Debia *vs.* Sookram Doss Mohunt 347
Bissonath Chatterjee *vs.* Madhubmonee Dabee 511
Bissumbhur Panjah *vs.* Moodhoo Soodun Dey 254
Boistub Churn Sein *vs.* Trahee Ram Sein ... 32
Boro Khosiah *vs.* Jata Sirdar 315
Brijo Lall Roy *vs.* Shama Churn Bhutt ... 20
Brojo Kishore Surmah *vs.* Kirtee Chunder Surmah 247
Brojo Mohun Mojoomdar *vs.* Roodronath Surmah Mozoomdar 192
Brojo Mohun Thakoor *vs.* Gouree Pershad Chowdhry 70
Brojo Nath Paul Chowdhry *vs.* Bimola Soonduree Dossia 298
Brojo Soondur Bhadooree *vs.* Eshan Chunder Roy 179
Brojungona Dassee *vs.* Shona Mookhee Dassee 51
Bucha Singh *vs.* Mirza Mashook Ali Beg ... 572
Budrunissa Bibee *vs.* Nufeeutoollah ... 555
Buldeo Misser *vs.* Syud Ahmed Hossein ... 143
Bykunt Nath Roy *vs.* Grish Chunder Mookerjee 96
Bykunt Ram Roy *vs.* Mussamut Shurfunnissa Begum 523

C.

Cazee Abid Hossein *vs.* Mussamut Reazun 302
Chowdhry Hamedoollah *vs.* Muteeoonissa Bibee 574
Chowdhry Zuhurool Huq *vs.* Gooroo Churn Roy 329
Chunder Jaleah *vs.* Ram Churn Mookerjee 212

Chunder Mun Chowdhry *vs.* Sree Mun Chowdhry 119
Chunder Nath Moitro *vs.* Kristo Komul Singh 357
Churn Singh *vs.* Rungoo Singh 221
Coomar Narain Doss *vs.* Ram Coomar Mytee 513
Court of Wards *vs.* Bunwaree Lall Thakoor 102
Court of Wards *vs.* Burra Lall Oopendro Nath Deo 99

D.

Damoodur Roy *vs.* Nimanund Chuckerbutty 365
Darimba Debia *vs.* Nil Monee Singh Deo ... 181
DeCourcy *vs.* Meghnath Jha 157
Deen Dyal Paramanick *vs.* Suttis Chunder Roy 272
Dewan Ram Jewun Singh *vs.* The Collector and Magistrate of Shahabad 132
Dhoolee Chund *vs.* Rajroop Kooer ... 107
Dhunookdharee Singh *vs.* Gopee Singh ... 191
Dhunnoo Sowdagur *vs.* Sunnoo Bibee ... 106
Dhunraj Koonwar *vs.* Ooggur Narain Koonwar 2
Dhunput Singh *vs.* Ranee Rajessuree ... 476
Dhunput Singh *vs.* Vellayet Ali 211
Dinobundoo Chowdhry *vs.* Rajmohinee Chowdhrain 73
Digamburee Debia *vs.* Eshan Chunder Sein 372
Digamburee Dossee *vs.* Banee Madhub Ghose 155
Dookhee Khan *vs.* Rajessuree Ranee ... 371
Doolar Jha *vs.* Runjeet Roy 340
Doorga Kripa Roy *vs.* Mohesh Chunder Roy 242
Doorga Pershad Mahapattur *vs.* Radha Mohun Mytee 536
Doorga Pershad Misser *vs.* Brindabun Sookul 274
Dowlut Gazee Chowdhry *vs.* Moonshee Munwar 341
Dudsar Bibee *vs.* Shakir Burkundaz ... 168
Dullil Singh *vs.* Shitab Lall 338
Dwarkanath Chuckerbutty *vs.* Dhun Monee Chowdhrain 524
Dwarkanath Roy Chowdhry *vs.* Dinobundhoo Singh Chowdhry 461

E.

Enayetoollah *vs.* Radha Churn Roy ... 395

F.

Fegredo *vs.* Mahomed Mundessur... ... 75
Fukeer Chand *vs.* Thakoor Singh 421
Futteh Narain *vs.* Deen Dyal Lall ... 37

G.

Gale *vs.* Maharanee Sreemutty 133
Gobind Monee Debia *vs.* Dino Bundhoo Shaha 87
Goburdhun Doss *vs.* Munnoo Lall ... 95
George, In the goods of Mrs. 457
Golab Khan, *Petitioner* 171
Golam Mahomed *vs.* Indro Chunder Johuree 34
Golam Mustafa Khan *vs.* Sheo Soonduree Burmonee 304
Golam Reza Chowdhry *vs.* Chandoo Meah Lushkur 45
Goluck Chunder Chowdhry *vs.* Kanto Pershad Hazaree 317
Goluck Chunder Mytee *vs.* Parbutty Churn Doss 167
Goluck Kishore Acharjee *vs.* Kesha Majhee 23
Gooroo Churn Soor *vs.* Sree Churn Ghose 308
Gooroo Doss Roy *vs.* Anund Moyee Debia 203
Gooroo Doss Roy *vs.* Bungshee Dhur Sein 61
Gooroo Pershad Dutt *vs.* Sreenath Banerjee 314
Gopal Chunder Lahoory *vs.* Raj Kishore Lahoory 467
Gopal Chunder Roy *vs.* Arman Shaikh ... 402
Gopal Mullick *vs.* Anund Chunder Chatterjee 363
Gour Mohun Chowdhry *vs.* Muddún Mohun Chowdhry 29
Gour Sahoy Singh *vs.* Sheo Sahoy Singh... 94
Gour Soondur Paray *vs.* Kristo Kanto Mahaton 108
Gour Surun Doss *vs.* Scrouder 144
Gouree Singh *vs.* Fuzl Hossein 313
Gowhur Ali Khan *vs.* Mussamut Sakheena Khanum 507
Grant *vs.* Bunshee Deo 38
Grish Chunder Lahoree *vs.* Shama Churn Sandyal 437
Gudadhur Banerjee *vs.* Tara Chand Banerjee 3
Gujadhur Pershad *vs.* Gunesh Tewaree ... 485
Gunga Dhur Chatterjee *vs.* Soorjo Nath Chatterjee 446
Gunga Ram Chowdhry *vs.* Huree Nath Chowdhry 436

H.

Hameedoollah *vs.* Muteeoonissa Bibee ... 574
Hamid Hossein *vs.* Gervain 496
Harris *vs.* Britain 534
Heera Lall Kooer *vs.* Purmessur Kooer ... 401
Heeranath Kooeree *vs.* Burm Narain Singh 375
Heeranund Sahoo *vs.* Musst. Khubeeroonissa 516
Hills *vs.* Wooma Moyee Burmonee ... 545
Hur Gobind Dass *vs.* Buroda Pershad Dass 112
Huree Doss Bysack *vs.* Meer Moazzum Hossein 447
Huree Mohun Sircar *vs.* Moncrieff ... 464
Huree Nath Doss *vs.* Shaikh Asmut Ali ... 171
Huree Mohun Paramanick, *Petitioner* ... 486
Huro Chunder Chowdhry *vs.* Gobind Chunder Moitro 178
Huro Narain Giree *vs.* Doorga Churn Giree 319
Huro Pershad Roy Chowdhry *vs.* Wooma Tara Debee 194

Hurrish Chunder Goopto *vs.* Shushee Malla Gooptia 163
Huruck Lall Shaha *vs.* Sreenibash Kurmokar 428
Hydar Buksh *vs.* Bhopendro Deb Coomar 231

I.

Indro Coomar Doss *vs.* Mohinee Mohun Roy 159
Indro Narain Deb *vs.* Gobind Chunder Dhur 368
Indromonee Burmonee *vs.* Suroop Chunder Paul 395
Indur Chunder Doogur *vs.* Luchmee Bibee 501
Ishan Chunder *vs.* Sooja Bibee 331
Ishan Chunder Ghose, *Petitioner*... ... 352
Ishur Dutt Mundul *vs.* Shib Pershad Thakoor 290

J.

Jadub Mundul *vs.* Bishoo Sirdar 369
Janokee Nath Mookerjee *vs.* Joy Kishen Mookerjee 4
Janokee Nath Mookerjee *vs.* Raj Kristo Singh 292
Jharee Sahoo *vs.* Bundhoo Sahoo... ... 218
Jeanund Chowdhry *vs.* Syud Abdool Luteef 243
Joy Chunder Tuppadar *vs.* Ram Churn Doss 117
Joy Doorga Dossia *vs.* Juggernath Roy ... 295
Judoonath Shadhookhan, *Petitioner* ... 40
Juggernath Sahoo *vs.* Syud Mahomed Hossein 173
Juggut Mohinee Dossee *vs.* Madhub Chunder Kur 66
Jutto Moar *vs.* Basmuttee Kooer 479

K.

Kalee Churn Gir Gossain *vs.* Bungshee Mohun Doss... 339
Kalee Doss Ghose, *Petitioner* 356
Kalee Hur Doss *vs.* Roodressur Chuckerbutty 90
Kalee Pershad Singh *vs.* Poorno Debia ... 398
Kalee Prosunno Ghose *vs.* Hurrish Chunder Dutt 56
Kamul Kaminee Dossee *vs.* Obhoy Churn Ghose 151
Kanhya Lall *vs.* Shaikh Munowur Hossein 271
Kanuck Monee Dossee *vs.* Gopee Mundul 180
Kashee Kishore Roy Chowdhry *vs.* Kishen Chunder Sandyal 160
Kazee Abdool Mannah *vs.* Buroda Kant Banerjee... 394
Khan Mahomed Shaha *vs.* Lall Mahomed 179
Khanto Bewah *vs.* Nund Ram Nath ... 369
Khetter Gopal Chatterjee *vs.* Poorno Chunder Chatterjee 482
Khetter Paul Singh *vs.* Luckhee Narain Mitter 125
Khoob Lall Sahoo *vs.* Shaikh Kadir Buksh 431
Khoodeeram Chatterjee *vs.* Rookinee Boistobee 197
Khorshed Ali *vs.* Chowdhry Wahid Ali ... 170
Kishen Chunder Goopto *vs.* Dewan Ali ... 165
Kishen Coomaree Bibee *vs.* Golab Coomaree Bibee 477
Kishen Pershad Singh *vs.* Mohun Singh... 420
Kishoree Mohun Bose *vs.* Gour Monee Dossee 198
Kisto Kalee Moonshee *vs.* Agemona Bewa 170
Kisto Kishore Roy *vs.* Issur Chunder Roy 166
Koomar Puresh Narain Roy *vs.* Gour Soonder Bhoomick 391
Koonj Beharee Singh *vs.* Neeroo Singh ... 291
Koylash Chunder Mitter *vs.* Dhun Monee Dossia 273
Koylas Nath Ghose *vs.* Nitya Shama Dossee 449
Kristo Chunder Murdraj *vs.* Poorosuttum Doss 424
Kristo Mohun Shaha *vs.* Aftabooddeen Mahomed 560
Kristo Protibar *vs.* Alludhinee Dossee ... 4
Kristo Soondur Sandyal *vs.* Koomar Chunder Nath Roy 230
Kristo Sunkur Dutt Roy *vs.* Koylash Nath Dutt Roy 6
Kulpo Singh *vs.* Thakoor Singh 429
Kullyanessuree Dossee *vs.* Narain Kyburto 241
Kumul Dutt *vs.* Mohun Lalla 278
Kunchun Deo Singh *vs.* Tekaet Sidh Nath Singh 289
Kunda Misser *vs.* Gunesh Singh 193
Kureem Buksh Khan *vs.* Mussamut Doolhin Khoord 82
Kusseemoonissa Bibee *vs.* Hill 127
Kusseemoonissa Bibee *vs.* Huroonnissa Bibee 195

L.

Lall Mahomed *vs.* Bibee Furhutoonissa ... 312
Lalla Goondur Lall *vs.* Hubeeboonissa ... 311
Lalla Juggessur Sahoy *vs.* Gopal Lall ... 54
Lalla Mitterjeet Singh *vs.* Raj Chunder Roy 448
Lalla Mitterjeet Singh *vs.* Soonatun Doss 124
Lalla Puriag Dutt *vs.* Shaikh Bundeh Hossein 225
Leelanund Singh *vs.* Joy Mungul Singh... 335
Leelanund Singh *vs.* Ram Narain Singh... 415
Lekhraj Roy *vs.* Motee Madhub Sein ... 333
Lukhee Chunder Chuckerbutty *vs.* Ramdhun Shaha 399
Luleet Narain Gossamee *vs.* Keshub Deb Gossamee 209

M.

Maddocks, In the goods of Sir T. H. ... 456
Madhub Chunder Dundput *vs.* Madhub Lall Khan 542
Madhub Chunder Gooho *vs.* Kumla Kant Chuckerbutty 293
Madhub Chunder Sircar *vs.* Banee Madhub Roy 85
Mahadeb Mundul *vs.* Cowell 445

Mahadoo Begum *vs.* Syud Hubeebool Hossein 44
Maharajah Dheeraj Mahtab Chand Bahadoor *vs.* Moorleedhur Ghose 617
Maharajah Dheeraj Mahtab Chand Bahadoor *vs.* Modhoo Soodun Banerjee ... 162
Maharajah Dheeraj Mahtab Chand Bahadoor *vs.* Surnomoyee Dossee 222
Maharajah Joy Mungul Singh *vs.* Mohun Ram Marwaree 37
Maharanee of Burdwan *vs.* Purkhit Raootra 426
Mahomed Ayenooddeen *vs.* Kalee Doss Chundo 279
Mahomed Bahadoor Mozoomdar *vs.* Raj Kishore Singh 522
Mahomed Hanceef Meajee *vs.* Mozhur Ali... 280
Mahomed Reza *vs.* The Collector of Chittagong 116
Manson *vs.* Golam Kebria Moonshee ... 490
Mee Tsee, *Petitioner* 351
Meer Jaseemooddeen *vs.* Shaikh Munsoor Ali 11
Meer Lootf Ali *vs.* Aboo Bibee 203
Miller, A. B., *vs.* Akhooree Ram 412
Mirza Himmut Bahadoor *vs.* Ranee Sooneet Kooer 549
Mirza Mahomed Hossein *vs.* Shahazadah Tuqueerooddeen Sahib 284
Mirza Mehdee Beg *vs.* Zellal Thakoor ... 530
Modhoo Soodun Sagoory *vs.* Nepal Khan... 440
Modhoosoodun Koondoo *vs.* Madhub Ram Sewloll 161
Mohabeer Pershad Singh *vs.* The Collector of Tirhoot 137
Mohendronath Mookerjee *vs.* Bama Soonduree Debee 493
Mohesh Chunder Banerjee *vs.* Chunder Monee Debee 237
Mohinee Mohun Doss *vs.* Ram Kant Chowdhry 322
Mokoond Narain Deo *vs.* Jonardun Dey Burnick 208
Moinoollah *vs.* Goluck Monee Chowdhrain 270
Mon Mohinee Dossee *vs.* Baluck Chunder Pundit 498
Moneerooddeen Mojoomdar *vs.* Parbutty Churn Ghose 121
Monessur Doss *vs.* Beer Protap Sahee ... 188
Monkee Dumber Sahee *vs.* Monkee Bhullumdar Sahee 423
Moonshee Aftabooddeen Ahmed *vs.* Mohinee Mohun Doss 48
Moshahel Singh *vs.* Konomutty Bewa ... 172
Motee Chund Doss *vs.* Moorulee Dhur Doss 432
Mothoora Nath Koondoo *vs.* Campbell ... 463
Moulvie Abdoollah *vs.* Shaha Mujeesooddeen 286
Moulvie Ahmedoollah *vs.* Gour Huree Biswas 251
Mugjoo Pandaen *vs.* Ram Dyal Tewaree... 531
Mun Mohinee Dossee *vs.* Ichamoyee Dossee 352
Munohur Paul *vs.* Wise 246
Munnoo Lall *vs.* Saheb Perhlad Sein ... 58
Munoo Dossee *vs.* Ishan Chunder Banerjee 245
Mussamut Ablakhee Kooer *vs.* Oodun Singh 331
Mussamut Bhuggobutty Dayee *vs.* Chowdhry Bholanath Thakoor 63
Mussamut Bhuggobutty Kooer *vs.* Mussamut Kustooree Kooer 272
Mussamut Eshan Khatoon *vs.* Ramnath Sein Lushkur 327
Mussamut Gobind Monee *vs.* Rajender Kishore Chowdhry 18
Mussamut Khukroo Misrain *vs.* Jhoomuck Lall Doss 263
Mussamut Mahomudee Begum *vs.* Mussamut Oomdutoonissa 271
Mussamut Mussitee Khanum *vs.* Mussamut Hookoom Bibee 88
Mussamut Munbasee Kooer *vs.* Nowrungee Lall 134
Mussamut Oomatool Fatima *vs.* Azhur Ali 356
Mussamut Ritooraj *vs.* Oojagur Singh ... 227
Muthuroollah *vs.* Torabooddeen 305

N.

Nehal Singh *vs.* Syud Alai Ahmed ... 110
Nil Komul Sein *vs.* Danesh Shaikh ... 469
Nilmonee Singh Deo *vs.* Anunt Ram Putnaik 393
Nittyanund Ghose *vs.* Kishen Dyal Ghose... 300
Nobin Chunder Koondoo *vs.* Sreedhur Bhuttacharjee 24
Nobin Chunder Mojoomdar *vs.* Mookta Soonduree Dabee 309
Nobin Chunder Bullub *vs.* Bhoobun Chunder Mundul 526
Nobin Chunder Paul *vs.* Stephenson ... 534
Nobo Coomar Chatterjee *vs.* Ramdhun Chatterjee 266
Nomaz Mollah *vs.* Lall Mohun Tagadgeer... 279
Nowab Asudut Dowla Reza Hossein Khan *vs.* Haminsud Dowla Abed Khan ... 204
Nowab Syud Zoynul Abdeen *vs.* Phoolash Chunder Bothrah 126
Nubo Kishen Mookerjee *vs.* Kalachand Mookerjee 438
Nubo Kishen Mookerjee *vs.* Sreeram Roy... 255
Nuddyabashee Doss *vs.* Reza Chowdhry... 337
Nuffur Merdha *vs.* Ram Lall Adhicary ... 308
Nugendro Chunder Ghose *vs.* Musruff Bibee 17
Nund Kishore Doss *vs.* Ram Kulpo Roy... 8
Nund Lall Roy *vs.* Gooroo Churn Bose ... 6
Nund Kishore Singh *vs.* Lalla Burjun Lall 154
Nusrut Ali *vs.* Zeimunnissa... 146

O.

Oma Churn Banerjee *vs.* The Collector of Hooghly 523
Onraet *vs.* Kishen Soonduree Dossee ... 85
Oomabuttee *vs.* Parushnath Pandey ... 135
Osman Singh *vs.* Chummun Mahtoon ... 87

P.

Pachoo Raree *vs.* Gooroo Churn Dass ... 556
Panaoollah Nushyo *vs.* Nubodeep Chunder Shaha 270

Pearee Monee Bibee *vs.* Madhub Singh ... 93
PeareenathBrohmo *vs.* Juggessuree Dossee 128
Perrin *vs.* Ledlie 364
Pershad Singh *vs.* Chedee Lall 1
Petambur Dutt *vs.* Hurish Chunder Dutt 200
Pitambur Chuckerbutty *vs.* Bhyrubnath Paleet 52
Pogose *vs.* Syud Ekram Hossein 483
Poorah Chunder Nundee *vs.* Sreeshteedhur Chuckerbutty 147
Poresh Nath Roy *vs.* Gopal Kristo Deb ... 61
Pran Kristo Roy *vs.* The Collector of Moorshedabad 205
Prem Chand Dan *vs.* Darimba Debia ... 238
Preo Madhub Sircar *vs.* Bissumbhur Sircar 514
Prince Golam Mahomed *vs.* Indro Chand Johuree 34
Prosunno Chunder Bose *vs.* Prosunno Chunder Roy 343
Prosunno Coomar Sandyal *vs.* Mothoora Nath Banerjee 487
Puran Chunder Paul *vs.* Koroona Moyee Dossee 268
Puree Soonduree Dabee *vs.* Chunder Shekur Ghossal 252
Puresh Narain Roy *vs.* Gour Soondur Bhoomick 391
Purmessuree Dutt Jha *vs.* Joynath Thakoor 326

R.

RadhaBinode Dutt *vs.* Kootabode Mundul 363
Radha Churn Gangooly *vs.* Anund Sein ... 444
Radha Churn Gangooly *vs.* Gudadhur Bahadoor 166
Radha Gobind Shaha *vs.* Brojendro Coomar Chowdhry 207
Radha Gobind Shaha *vs.* Imam Buksh Oostagur 217
Radha Gobind Shaha *vs.* Shaik Oozeer Jemadar 219
Radha Gobind Surmah *vs.* Syud Umber Ali 27
Radha Kristo Chaklanuvis *vs.* Kallee Prosunno Roy 268
Radhika Prosunno Chunder *vs.* Nehalee Churn Dey 410
Raj Chunder Burmun *vs.* Rama Kant Chuckerbutty 324
Raj Coomar Mookerjee *vs.* Prannath Mookerjee 499
Raj Coomar Roy Chowdhry *vs.* Rajah Debendro Narain Roy 41
Raj Kishen Mookerjee *vs.* Dusruth Sootrodhur 234
Raj Kishen Mookerjee *vs.* Kalee Churn Dobaree 109
Raj Kishen Singh *vs.* Huro Soonduree Dossee 255
Raj Kishore Mullick *vs.* Brindabun Chunder Poddar 119
Raj Manick Singh *vs.* Ruttun Manick Bose 46
Rajah Mokoond Narain Deo *vs.* Jonardun Dey Burnick 208
Rajendro Narain Lahoree *vs.* Saroda Soonduree Dabee 548
Rajeshuree Debia *vs.* Raj Coomaree Dossee 182
Rajoo Singh *vs.* Gunesh Monee Burmonee 400
Rakhal Chunder Roy *vs.* Guggun Chunder Dutt 498
Ram Bishto Acharjee *vs.* Chyet Lall Tewarry 451
Ram Chunder Chowdhry *vs.* Mariott ... 465
Ram Coomar Doss *vs.* Bidhoo Mookhee Dossee 31
Ram Ghose *vs.* Radha Churn Gangooly ... 417
Ram Gobind Roy *vs.* Syud Kushuffudoza 141
Ram Gopal Tewaree *vs.* Gora Chand Poryal 28
Ram Huree Surmah *vs.* Trihee Ram Surmah 442
Ram Kanaye Shaha *vs.* Bykuntnath Shaha 89
Ram Lall Mookerjee *vs.* Chittro Coomaree 277
Ram Lochun Pattuck *vs.* Rughoobur Dyal 111
Ram Narain Singh Deo *vs.* Bistoo Thakoor 299
Ram Runjun Chuckerbutty *vs.* Anund Coomar Mookerjee 323
Ram Sahoy Singh *vs.* Kooldeep Singh ... 80
Ram Sahoy Singh *vs.* Rookhoo Singh ... 414
Ram Sudoy Ghose *vs.* Raj Bullubh Saha ... 547
Ram Taruck Ghossal *vs.* Radha Bullub Sircar 97
Ramanoogra Sahoy *vs.* Byjnath Lall ... 164
Ramrukha Roy Jemadar *vs.* Gobind Doss Byragee 291
Rash Monee Debia *vs.* Rajah Ram Sircar 86
Raye Kumul Dossee *vs.* Jhoroo Mollah ... 543
Reed *vs.* Sreekishen Singh 430
Reedoy Monee Burmonee *vs.* Sibbold ... 344
Rohinee Debia *vs.* Shib Chunder Chatterjee 558
Rohinee Nundun Gossamee *vs.* Rutnessur Koondoo 345
Rummeezooddeen Bhooyan *vs.* Joymala... 303
Russick Lall Chatterjee, *Petitioner* ... 518

S.

Sadhun Chunder Bose *vs.* Gooroo Churn Bose 99
Sahadeo Pandey *vs.* Nokhid Pandey ... 573
Seeta Ram *vs.* Shaikh Kummeer Ali ... 250
Seeta Ram Gossain *vs.* Fukeer Chand Chuckerbutty 433
Seetanath Mundul *vs.* Anund Chunder Roy 5
Shahazada Fukeerooddeen Ahmed, *Petitioner* 278
Shaikh Ahmed Hossein *vs.* Mussamut Bandee 91
Shaikh Ashruf *vs.* Mahomed Hossein ... 276
Shaikh Enaet Ali *vs.* Baboo Sobhnath Misser 258
Shaikh Ferasut Ali *vs.* Ashootosh Roy Singh 455
Shaikh Golam Russool *vs.* Shaikh Abdool Ruheem 19
Shaikh Mahomed Bassiroollah *vs.* Shaikh Abdoollah *(in a foot-note)* 196
Shaikh Muzhur Hossein *vs.* Hur Pershad Roy 353
Shaikh Nujmooddeen Hossein *vs.* Lloyd ... 232
Shaikh Reasut Hossein *vs.* Jusmunt Roy ... 396
Shama Churn Neogy *vs.* Nobin Chunder Dhoobah 239
Shama Puddo Dutt *vs.* Nobin Chunder Bose 283

Shama Soonduree Debia *vs.* Seetul Khan. 474
Sharoda Pershad Mookerjee *vs.* Sreenath Mookerjee 520
Sheo Churn Narain Singh *vs.* Chukraree Pershad Narain Singh 436
Sheo Prosunno Chobey *vs.* Gopal Surn ... 529
Shib Doss Banerjee *vs.* Bamun Doss Mookerjee 360
Shib Kristo Dan *vs.* Abdool Sobhan Chowdhry 408
Shib Pershad Ranah *vs.* Muddun Mohun Doss 415
Shib Ram Mundul *vs.* Ruhmutoollah ... 68
Shomaed Ali Sowdagur *vs.* Eusoof Khan Chowdhry 80
Shumboo Chunder Surnokar *vs.* Russick Chunder Chung 346
Shumsool Osman *vs.* Bhunsheedhur Dutt. 366
Shunkur Sahoo *vs.* Mungul Singh ... 158
Shunkur Sahoo *vs.* Gurbhoo Sahoo ... 214
Shurbessur Ghose *vs.* Sadhoo Churn Ghose. 130
Sobbee Jha *vs.* Shosheenath Jha 150
Sonatun Bukshee *vs.* Gopal Chunder Shamunto 31
Shookh Moyee Dossee *vs.* Nurmooda Dossee 210
Soorendronath Roy *vs.* Purmanund Ghose. 342
Soorendronath Roy *vs.* Rughoobur Dyal Awustee 392
Spencer *vs.* Puhul Chowdhry 471
Sree Gopal Mullick *vs.* Dwarkanath Sein. 520
Sreehuree Bukshee *vs.* Gopal Chunder Samunt 500
Sreemuttee Nassir Jan *vs.* Akbur Mozoomdar 418
Sreemuttee Juggodumba Dossee, *Petitioner* 75
Sreemuttee Dossee *vs.* Ram Nidhee Koondoo 183
Sreemuttee Dossee *vs.* Pelaram Dossee ... 261
Sreemuttee Jannoba *vs.* Grish Chunder Chuckerbutty 335
Sreemunt Ram Dey *vs.* Kookoor Chand ... 481
Sree Misser *vs.* Crowdy 243
Sreenath Roy *vs.* Goluck Chunder Sein ... 348
Suddye Purira *vs.* Boistub Purira ... 261
Sufroo Shaikh Durjee *vs.* Futteh Shaikh Durjee 505
Suroop Manna *vs.* Bonomalee Churn Mytee 240
Surubjeet Mundul *vs.* Misselback 148
Suttyanund Ghossal *vs.* Huro Kishore Dutt 474
Syud Ameer Ali *vs.* Maharanee Indurjeet Kooer 43
Syud Nujmooddeen Ahmed *vs.* Abdool Azeez 95

T.

Tahboonissa Bibee *vs.* Koomar Sham Kishore Roy 228
Talun Bibee *vs.* Tenoo Bibee 65
Tara Chand Mundul *vs.* Bhoyrub Chunder Chuckerbutty 551
Tara Pershad Roy *vs.* Soorjo Kant Acharjee 152
Tarinee Churn Mookerjee *vs.* Poorno Chunder Roy 397
Tarinee Pershad Sein *vs.* Dwarkanath Rukheet 451
Taruck Chunder Chuckerbutty *vs.* Huro Chunder Chuckerbutty 473
Tatur Khawas *vs.* Loke Nath 131
Tekaet Khood Narain Sing *vs.* Toolsee Roy 9
Tekaet Bhao Narain Deo *vs.* Maharajah Ram Narain Deo 58
Thakoor Doss Roy *vs.* Nubeen Chunder Ghose 552
Thakoor Doss Goshamee *vs.* Gopee Kristo Goshamee 18
Thakoor Lall Misser *vs.* Brohmo Moyee Dabee 253
Thekmee Beldar *vs.* Ram Kishen Lall ... 71
Tiluck Pattuck *vs.* Mohabeer Pandey ... 454
Titooram Bose *vs.* Tarinee Churn Ghose ... 127
Toofanee Doss *vs.* Mun Rekhun Roy ... 202
Toolsee Dossee *vs.* Doorga Churn Paul ... 175
Tripoora Soonduree *vs.* Russick Chunder Kanoongoe 189
Tripoora Soonduree *vs.* Koylash Chunder Bose 265

V.

Vaughan, Mrs., *vs.* Lall Chand Ghose ... 281

W.

Woomanath Roy Chowdhry *vs.* Sreenath Singh 260
Wooma Soonduree Burmonia *vs.* Gooroo Pershad Roy 74
Woomesh Chunder Roy *vs.* Jonardun Hajrah 235
Woon Chit Poe *vs.* Wee Chang 185

Y.

Yusoof Ali Chowdhry *vs.* Mussamut Fyzoonissa Khatoon Chowdhrain ... 296

Z.

Zohuruttoollah Chowdhry *vs.* Asalooddeen Chowdhry 129
Zoynul Abdeen *vs.* Phoolash Chunder Bothrah 126
Zuhoorul Huq *vs.* Gooroo Churn Roy ... 329

INDEX

(FULL BENCH RULINGS).

A.

ACT VIII. OF 1859.
Section 205. *See Reversionary Interest.*
Section 327. *See Arbitration Award.*

ALIENATION.
See Mitakshara Law (1)

APPEAL.
See Arbitration Award (1)

ARBITRATION AWARD.
An award having been made upon a reference to arbitration without the intervention of the Court, the plaintiffs applied to the Moonsiff, in accordance with the terms of Section 327, Act VIII. of 1859, to be allowed to file the award in Court. The application was at first refused on the ground that the award had not determined all the matters referred for arbitration; but, on review, the Moonsiff having considered all the objections taken to the award — the main one being that, before the award was made, the defendants had revoked their authority to the arbitrators — decided that there was no valid ground for not enforcing the award, and accordingly upheld it:
HELD by *Norman, C.J.*, and *L. S. Jackson, J.(Paul, J.,contra)*, that an appeal lay from the decision of the Moonsiff.
Per Norman, C.J., and *Jackson, J.*— It is open to an appellant to show that a paper which has been filed is not an award; but if it be an award, and judgment be given in accordance with such award under the provisions of Section 327, such judgment is final.
Per Paul, J.—Where an award has been filed, and judgment entered according to the award, such judgment is final.
Per Loch and *Kemp, JJ.*—A judgment drawn up in conformity with an award is final, but a judgment of that kind cannot be made when the fact of the award having been made with the consent of parties is disputed; and in such a case the

ARBITRATION AWARD—*(Continued).*
Court should refer the petitioner to a regular suit to try the validity of the award. If the Court proceed to try the whole cause on its merits, an appeal lies. If the Court reject objections to the filing of the award and judgment be drawn up in conformity with the award, such judgment is final ... 9

E.

EXECUTION.
See Reversionary Interest.

K.

KUBOOLEUT.
In a suit in which the zemindar sought to recover possession with mesne-profits, the tenant declared the land to be rent-free. The decree gained by the zemindar declared the land to be mâl, but refused to give possession and mesne-profits, and it declared the defendant entitled to possession so long as he performed the service for which the land was granted, but that on his failure to do so the zemindar might resume the land. The zemindar did not resume; but the present plaintiff, who is a purchaser from the zemindar, sued for a kubooleut from the tenant who is still in possession. HELD that the plaintiff was not entitled to a kubooleut as the tenant might be perfectly willing, so far as was known, to perform the service which he was required to render.
Per Norman, C. J.—As a general rule, the holder of a tenure cannot be sued by owners of fractional shares in the superior tenure for separate kubooleuts according to the proportions to which they allege themselves to be entitled in the superior tenure.
Per Mitter, J.—The share-holders of an undivided estate have no right to divide a holding or tenure without the consent of the tenant. The payment to each share-holder of his quota of the rent is of itself no

KUBOOLEUT—*(Continued).*
evidence of such consent; although when coupled with other facts and circumstances, it may justify a Court of Justice in coming to the conclusion that the tenant actually consented to the division of his tenure into a corresponding number of distinct holdings ... 21

M.

MITAKSHARA LAW.
On the question whether, under the ——, when a son sues to set aside an alienation made by his father of joint ancestral property on the ground that there was no legal necessity to justify the alienation, and it is proved that no legal necessity for such alienation existed, the son is entitled to recover his own share of the property only, or the whole, and on what terms:
HELD that that question has been decided by two previous Full Bench judgments, cited—in one of which it was ruled that the sale or mortgage of joint undivided property is invalid if made without the consent of all the co-sharers, and not valid even for the seller's own share when undivided—and in the other of which it was held that the terms upon which such decree should be made will depend on the equity which the purchaser may have to a refund of the purchase-money, or

MITAKSHARA LAW—*(Continued).*
to be placed in the position of an incumbrancer as against the joint family in the particular case 6

R.

REVERSIONARY INTEREST.
The interest of an heir according to Hindoo Law expectant on the death of a widow in possession is not property, but a mere expectancy, and therefore is not rendered liable to attachment and sale in execution of a decree by the 205th Section of Act VIII. of 1859 ... 17

REVIEW.
It cannot be treated as a universal rule that no point can be raised on an application for a——which has been already discussed and decided in the original hearing of the appeal; or that no new point which has not been raised at the hearing of the appeal can be argued on the application for ——. In each case the Court to which application is made must consider and decide whether a —— is necessary to correct any evident error or omission, or is otherwise requisite for ends of justice ... 2

S.

SHARE HOLDER.
See Kubooleut.

TABLE OF CASES

(FULL BENCH RULINGS).

C.

Chinta Monee Paul *vs.* Pearee Mohun Mookerjee ... 1

H.

Honooman Dutt Roy *vs.* Bhagbut Kishen 6

I.

Indur Chunder Doogur *vs.* Bindabun Beharee ... 21

L.

Lalla Ishuree Pershad *vs.* Hur Bhunjun Tewaree ... 9

R.

Ram Chunder Tantra Doss *vs.* Dhurmo Narain Chuckerbutty 17

S.

Shah Soobeeooddeen Aboo Saleh *vs.* Assadoonissa Bibee ... 1

Sustee Churn Chuckerbutty *vs.* Taruck Chunder Chatterjee ...

INDEX

(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION APPEALS).

A.

ACT VIII. OF 1859.

Section 206. *See Release.*

APPEAL.

See Insolvent Court.

E.

EVIDENCE.

See Insolvent Court.

I.

INSOLVENT COURT.

Where the evidence was not recorded as required by Section 72 of the Insolvent Act, a party appealing against the order based on the evidence cannot be heard before the Appellate Court 16

See Jurisdiction.

J.

JOINT FAMILY.

See Title.

JURISDICTION.

Of the Insolvent Court in respect of its discretionary power under Section 26 of the Insolvent Act ... 16

R.

RELEASE.

Where a decree-holder, having realized from the judgment-debtor a portion of his decree through the Court, gives him a letter stating that he releases him from the balance: HELD that this letter does not amount to a ——, the only way of adjusting a decree being through the Court under Section 206, Act VIII. of 1859 5

T.

TITLE.

Where, under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, A's brother brings a suit against the Official Assignee who has attached certain immoveable property of A, as judgment-debtor of an estate represented by him, on the ground that it is his own and self-acquired 7

TABLE OF CASES

(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION APPEALS).

A.

Ajoodhya Pershad, *In re* 16

B.

Bhoobun Mohun Banerjee *vs.* Sadoo Churn Sircar 5

D.

Dwarkanath Mitter, *In re (in foot-note)* ... 16

L.

Leslie *vs.* Punchanun Mitter 1

M.

Mohunt Joyram Geer *vs.* A. B. Miller ... 16

R.

Ratnamonce Dossee *vs.* Miller *(in foot-note)* 16

S.

Sreenarain Chuckerbutty *vs.* A. B. Miller. 7

RULES OF THE HIGH COURT.

Modifies the Pleadership Rules as regards natives of Assam 1

Rules for disposal of rent-suits 4

INDEX

(CRIMINAL RULINGS).

A.

ABDUCTION.
See Warrant (1)

ACCUSED.
See Evidence (1)
See Procedure (4) (6) (13) (14) (19) (20) (24)
See Witnesses (2)

ACT II. OF 1855.
Section 6. *See Waging War against the Queen* (2)
Section 8. *See Waging War against the Queen* (1)
Section 28. *See Treason* (2)
Section 34. *See Cross-Examination.*

ACT XLV. OF 1860.
Chapter X. *See Jurisdiction* (1)
Section 121. *See Treason* (1)
Section 121. *See Waging War against the Queen* (1)
Section 154. *See Unlawful Assembly.*
Section 188. *See Public Servant* (1)
Section 218. *See Police Officer.*
Section 228. *See Public Servant* (2)
Section 228. *See Witnesses* (1)
Section 304. *See Culpable Homicide.*
Section 312. *See Mis-carriage.*
Section 378. *See Theft.*
Section 441. *See Criminal Trespass* (1)
Section 467. *See Counterfeit Device.*
Section 475. *See Counterfeit Device.*

ACT V. OF 1861.
Section 29. *See Police Officer.*

ACT XXV. OF 1861.
Chapter XIV. *See High Court* (1)
See Procedure (2) (13)
Section 11. *See Full Bench Rulings* (3)
Section 35. *See High Court* (5)
Section 46. *See Full Bench Rulings* (4)
Section 62. *See Procedure* (17)
Section 67. *See Procedure* (14)
Section 169. *See Full Bench Rulings* (2)
Section 169. *See Procedure* (15)
Section 170. *See Procedure* (7)
Section 171. *See Full Bench Rulings* (2)
Section 171. *See Procedure* (25)
Section 180. *See Procedure* (14)
Section 200. *See Evidence* (1)
Section 205. *See Procedure* (18) (19) (20)

ACT XXV. OF 1861—*(Continued).*
Section 220. *See Warrant* (2)
Section 224. *See Procedure* (13)
Section 253. *See Procedure* (2)
Section 262. *See Procedure* (23)
Section 270. *See Amends.*
Sections 280-282. *See Procedure* (16)
Section 281. *See Breach of the Peace* (2)
Section 290. *See Breach of the Peace* (2)
Section 308. *See Jurisdiction* (2) (3) (4)
Section 318. *See Breach of the Peace.*
Section 318. *See Land Disputes* (2)
Section 318. *See Procedure* (21) (22)
Section 318. *See Public Servant* (1)
Section 319. *See Land Disputes* (1)
Section 366. *See Procedure* (19) (20)
Section 370. *See Evidence* (2)
Section 372. *See Record* (1)
Section 373. *See Record* (1)
Section 374. *See Record* (1) *Peace* (2)
Section 375. *See Procedure* (4)
Section 404. *See High Court* (6)
Section 405. *See High Court* (6)
Section 408. *See Appellate Court* (5)
Section 419. *See Appellate Court* (1) (4,
Section 422. *See Appellate Court* (5)
Section 422. *See Full Bench Rulings* (2)
Section 426. *See High Court* (1)
Section 426. *See Procedure* (7) (9) (10)
Section 435. *See Discharge.*

ACT XVII. OF 1862.
Section 4. *See Procedure* (9)

ACT III. (B. C.) OF 1864.
See License.

ACT VI. OF 1864.
See Appellate Court (1) (2)
See Full Bench Rulings (4)

ACT VII. OF 1864.
See Contraband Salt.

ACT XX. OF 1866.
See Full Bench Rulings (1)

ACT VIII. OF 1869.
See Act XXV. of 1861.
See Appellate Court (4)

ACT XXVII. OF 1870.
Section 10. *See Lottery Office.*

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE.
See Appellate Court (5)

AMENDS.

A Magistrate having jurisdiction is authorized by law in making an order under Section 270, Code of Criminal Procedure, directing the complainant to make amends to the accused notwithstanding that the complainant is to take his trial for perjury ... 9

APPEAL.

See Appellate Court (5)

APPELLATE COURT.

(1) A Deputy Magistrate passed a sentence of 6 months' rigorous imprisonment and whipping of 20 stripes on a person whom he convicted of house-breaking. The Sessions Judge on appeal set aside the sentence of whipping and commuted that portion of the sentence into one of rigorous imprisonment for 3 months.

HELD that the Sessions Judge acted rightly in setting aside the sentence of whipping, as the conviction was a first conviction of the offence; but that the commutation of the sentence of whipping into one of 3 months' rigorous imprisonment amounted to an enhancement of the sentence which had been passed by the Deputy Magistrate, and was therefore illegal, having regard to Section 419 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The High Court accordingly set aside the sentence of 3 months' additional rigorous imprisonment ... 7

(2) *Per Mitter, J.*—Section 12 of the Whipping Act, VI. of 1864, refers to the Court by which a case is tried in the first instance, and not to a Court of appeal ... *ib.*

(3) *Quære.*—Can a sentence of fine be substituted for one of imprisonment *ib.*

(4) Under Act VIII. of 1869, the Appellate Courts are limited to pronouncing judgment in the manner prescribed by Section 419 ... 33

Section 408 does not apply to the case of a person whose appeal has been dismissed after additional evidence has been taken under the provisions of Section 422, and no appeal lies from a judgment upon an appeal under Section 422, Act VIII. of 1869 ... *ib.*

See Full Bench Rulings (2)

APPROVER.

See Jury (1)

ASSESSORS.

(1) Although the Code of Criminal Procedure does not expressly provide for a summing up of the evidence in trials with the aid of ——, there is nothing in the Code to prevent a Judge from summing up the evidence, which is in fact only a mode of going through and discussing it with the —— ... 25

(2) The real object of appointing —— is to assist the Court, and the discussion and statement of points by a Judge sitting with —— cannot be said to be otherwise than in furtherance of the object of getting the best assistance for the proper adjudication of the case ... *ib.*

See Procedure (1)

ATTACHED PROPERTY.

See Land Disputes (1) (2)

B.

BOND.

See Breach of the Peace (1)

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

(1) Where the terms of a bond to keep the peace are general, the recognizances may be forfeited on any ——, whether the assault be committed against the person on whose charge the bond was originally taken or not ... 14

(2) Where *A* has been bound over to keep the peace under Section 281 of the Code of Criminal Procedure at the instance of *B*, a Deputy Magistrate is not competent to order him to enter into fresh recognizances to keep the peace on account of fresh disputes with *C*, but should refer the case to the Court of Session under Section 298 of the Code. ... 18

(3) In a proceeding under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the finding of the Magistrate that he believes that a dispute exists likely to induce a —— must depend upon *legal* evidence in the case which he is investigating. A police-report is *per se* no legal evidence in such a case ... 42

(4) The summons to a person to show cause why he should not be required to furnish recognizances to keep the peace should, under Section 283, Code of Criminal Procedure, set out the substance of the information against him ... 34

(5) When the party summoned shows cause, the Magistrate, in taking evidence, should look, not merely to

BREACH OF THE PEACE—*(Continued)*.

the question of possession, but also whether he is satisfied that there was a probability of a —— ... 43

(6) *Per Ainslie, J.*—In a case in which proceedings are taken for forfeiture of recognizances, the person against whom they are held is competent to give the evidence on oath on his own behalf ... 87

(7) *Quære.*—When recognizances are forfeited, is a Magistrate bound to forfeit the whole amount of the bond, and is the power of reducing the sum to a penalty corresponding to the —— confined only to the Government? *ib.*

See Land Disputes.
See Procedure (16) (17) (21) (22)

C.

CAPITAL SENTENCE.
See Murder.

CHARACTER, EVIDENCE TO—
See Jury (3)

CHARGE.
See Criminal Misappropriation.
See High Court (1)

CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT.
See Evidence (2)

CLAIM TO PROPERTY.
See Procedure (8)

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.
See Act XXV. of 1861.
See Act VIII. of 1869.

COMMITMENT.
See Discharge.
See Procedure (25)

COMPLAINANT.
See Procedure (23)
See Prosecutor (13) (14)

CONFESSIONS.
See Procedure (18)

CONFISCATION.
See Contraband Salt.

CONTRABAND SALT.

If salt exceeding 5 seers is found within the limits prescribed by Section 12, Act VII., B. C., of 1864, unprotected by a rowannah, as required under Sections 13 and 15, the salt must be held to be contraband under Section 16. The power of a Magistrate under Section 29 to confiscate salt not protected by a rowannah in a prohibited district is not affected because there was no attempt or intention to sell the salt within the prohibited district 21

CONVICTION.
See Procedure (1)

CORROBORATION.
See Jury (1).

COUNTERFEIT DEVICE.

In order to a conviction under Section 475 of the Penal Code, the document which the accused has in his possession must have some counterfeit device or mark upon it, and it must be proved that the accused has the document in his possession with the intent of using such device or mark for the purpose of giving the appearance of authenticity to the document. The document must be of the nature mentioned in Section 457 of the Penal Code ... 19

CRIMINAL MISAPPROPRIATION.

The misappropriation of each separate item of money with which a person is entrusted is a separate offence, and the facts connected with it should form the subject of a separate enquiry. The duty of a committing officer in such a case is to select certain distinct items to frame his charges upon them, and to adduce evidence specially upon those items ... 5

CRIMINAL TRESPASS.

(1) To bring a case under the definition of —— in Section 441 of the Penal Code, the entry must be made with the intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult, or annoy ... 6

(2) One member of a joint family commits no trespass by entering the house which forms the joint property, but he is guilty of that offence when he enters the room ordinarily occupied by another member of the family *ib.*

CROPS, PLUNDER OF—
See Procedure (8)

CROSS-EXAMINATION.

The complainant's pleader is at liberty before the Deputy Magistrate to cross-examine the witnesses for the defence on points respecting which they had made statements before the Joint Magistrate, and he might do so, as regards previous statements which were reduced to writing, without showing the writing.——Section 34, Act II. of 1855, explained ... 23

See Procedure (5)

CULPABLE HOMICIDE.

Where a Sessions Judge, in charging a Jury in a case of——not amounting to murder, omitted to draw their

CULPABLE HOMICIDE—*(Continued).*

attention to the two classes of—— mentioned in Section 304 of the Penal Code, the High Court considered that the accused were found guilty of the lighter description, and sentenced the accused to the punishment for such lighter description ... 17

D.

DEFENCE.

See Record (1)

DISCHARGE.

The —— by a Deputy Magistrate of a person charged with an offence triable only by a Court of Session is no bar to the Sessions Judge ordering the committal of such person to the Sessions under Section 435, Act VIII. of 1869 ... 61

See Procedure (13) (14)

DOCUMENT.

See Counterfeit Device.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

See Evidence (1)

DYING DECLARATION.

(1) Before a —— can be received in evidence, it must be distinctly found that the person who made the declaration knew or believed at the time he made it that he was dying or was likely to die ... 11

(2) Where a Sessions Judge sees from the Magistrate's record that there is evidence which could prove that the declaration was a——, he should call for that evidence. A Magistrate should, in all cases in which ——s are made, examine the complainant on the point and record the question as well as the answer to it upon the record of the examination *ib.*

E.

EVIDENCE.

(1) Section 200 relates only to the oral —— of witnesses. As to documentary ——, although a prisoner has a right to have all or any part of any document used on his trial translated or interpreted to him, yet where a document is put in for the purpose of merely giving formal proof of that which is an incontestable fact, it is not necessary to interpret it at length. It would be sufficient if the prisoner was made to understand what the document was, and for what purpose it was used ... 25

EVIDENCE—*(Continued).*

(2) Under Section 370 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the original report of the Chemical Examiner bearing his signature, and not a copy of the report, should be put in—— 49

See Breach of the Peace (3)

See Jury (2) (3) (4)

See Procedure (3) (19) (20) (23) (24)

See Unlawful Assembly.

See Waging War against the Queen (1) (2)

F.

FINE.

See Appellate Court (1) (3)

FLOGGING.

See Procedure (11)

FORFEITURE.

See Breach of the Peace (1)

FULL BENCH RULINGS.

(1) In the case of an offence under Section 94 of the Registration Act, XX. of 1866, if a Magistrate thinks that a more severe sentence is necessary than he is competent to inflict under the power vested in him by Act XXV. of 1861, it is competent to him to proceed under Section 226 of that Act, and to commit the accused to the Sessions; and on such committal a Sessions Judge has jurisdiction to deal with the charges and to convict and sentence the accused as provided for in the several Sections of Act XX. of 1866 58

(2) When an Appellate Court directs further evidence to be taken by a subordinate Court under Section 422 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is competent to the subordinate Court, before which such evidence is given, if any offence against public justice as described in Section 169 is committed before such Court by a witness whose evidence is being recorded therein, to send the case for investigation to a Magistrate under the provisions of Section 171 ... 64

(3) The words "whether for the decision of such cases in the first instance or on appeal, or for commitment to any other Court or Officer," in Section 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, are not intended as an exhaustive enumeration of the functions of Criminal Courts ... *ib.*

(4) Held (*Kemp and Phear, JJ., dissenting*) that, notwithstanding Section 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a person convicted at the same time of two or more offences

FULL BENCH RULINGS—*(Continued).*
punishable under the Penal Code may, in addition to the punishments prescribed by the Penal Code, be sentenced to whipping under Act VI. of 1864. The Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure must be read as if the Whipping Act formed a part of the Penal Code from the date of its enactment, and Section 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is applicable to all offences and punishments as prescribed by the Penal Code in its present and amended form ... 89

G.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTES.
See Waging War against the Queen (1)

GOVERNMENT LETTER.
See Waging War against the Queen (2)

GOVERNMENT SANCTION.
See Lottery Office.

H.

HIGH COURT.

(1) In a case under Chapter XIV. of the Code of Criminal Procedure in which the accused had full opportunity given him to answer the case which was made against him, the —— felt itself precluded by Section 426 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from interfering with the judgment of the Lower Court, even if it found that there was an irregularity in the proceedings in consequence of the absence of a formal charge ... 30

(2) A Judge of the —— making an order in the original criminal jurisdiction of that Court is not a Court subject to the control of the Court under Section 15 of the 24 and 25 Vic., C. 104 ... 60

(3) The —— has power, under Section 29 of its Letters Patent, to transfer a criminal case from a Court in the mofussil for trial before itself 69

(4) The mere possibility or probability that difficult questions whether of law or of fact, will arise is no reason for transferring a case under Section 29, there being a sufficient remedy provided in the right of appeal to the —— ... *ib.*

(5) *Per Macpherson, J.*—It is under Section 35 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and under that Section alone, that the —— ought to order the

HIGH COURT—*(Continued).*
transfer of criminal cases from one Court to another, except in very special cases (indicated) ... 69

(6) In a case in which a legal sentence, however light it may be, has been passed, the ——, sitting as a Court of revision under Section 404 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, has not the power to interfere with that sentence, inasmuch as, under Section 405 the Court cannot say that the sentence is contrary to law ... 83

See Procedure (22)

I.

INSULT.
See Public Servant (2)

IRREGULARITY.
See High Court (1)
See Procedure (9) (10)

J.

JOINT FAMILY.
See Criminal Trespass (1) (2)

JOINT PROPRIETOR.
See Theft.

JUDGMENT.
See Appellate Court (4)

JURISDICTION.

(1) The Queen *versus* Chunder Seekhur Roy, ruling that a Court before which an offence is committed under Chapter X. of the Penal Code cannot try the case itself,—followed, notwithstanding the argument of the Sessions Judge in this case that that ruling should apply only to certain cases under Chapter X. ... 2

(2) The Magistrate of a District can alone hold proceedings in a case (such as the removal of a thatched house) under Section 308 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Joint Magistrate, while in charge of the Magistrate's office, has no such jurisdiction 36

(3) Proceedings under Section 308 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the removal of obstructions may be originated by a Joint Magistrate in charge of a division of a district ... 41

(4) In the case of a complaint under Section 308 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the removal of an obstruction from a thoroughfare, a Magistrate should first enquire if the road is a public one or not. If

JURISDICTION—*(Continued).*
he finds in the affirmative, he has —— to proceed; if in the negative, he should withhold his hand and abstain from carrying out the order for removal of the obstruction ... 67

See Appellate Court (1) (2)
See Full Bench Rulings (1) (2) (3)
See High Court.
See Land Disputes (1)

JURY.

(1) Where a Sessions Judge in his charge to the —— in a case in which an approver accomplice gave his evidence drew the attention of the —— to the necessity for requiring corroboration to the approver's evidence before they could convict upon it, and the ——notwithstanding his charge convicted upon the uncorroborated evidence of the accomplice, it was held, following a Full Bench case cited, that the High Court could not interfere with such conviction 37

(2) Where a Sessions Judge omitted in his charge to the —— to comment on different parts of the evidence for the defence, to which he simply alluded as being unimportant, and allowed evidence as to character and hearsay evidence to go to the ——, the High Court acquitted the prisoner, the other evidence in the case being insufficient for conviction ... ... *ib.*

(3) Evidence as to character ought not to be laid before a——, but should only be taken and considered by the Sessions Judge in awarding punishment ... ... *ib.*

(4) Conviction by a ——set aside in a case of murder in which there was a total absence of all evidence to show that the prisoner had committed the crime 46

See Culpable Homicide.

L.

LAND DISPUTES.

(1) A Sessions Judge has no power to interfere with an order of a Magistrate attaching disputed land under Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1

(2) The power of attaching land regarding which there is a dispute conferred on a Magistrate by Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure extends to disputes as to possession of land of which rival zemindars are in possession by their ryots ... ... *ib.*

LAND DISPUTES—*(Continued).*
See Breach of the Peace.
See Procedure (21) (22)
See Public Servant (1)

LICENSE.
Where the accused was charged with a breach of Section 77, Act III. of 1864, in not taking out a —— for a woodyard, and he pleaded that the yard had been in existence prior to 1864, it was held that the Magistrate was wrong in refusing to enquire into the allegation as to the existence of the yard prior to 1864 84

LIMITATION.
See Treason (1)

LOTTERY OFFICE.
The sanction of the Local Government is necessary before a charge for keeping a —— under Section 10, Act XXVII. of 1870, can be instituted ... 2

M.

MAGISTRATE'S ATTESTATION.
See Procedure (19) (20)

MAGISTRATE OF DISTRICT.
See Jurisdiction (2)

MISCARRIAGE.
The offence defined in Section 312 can only be committed when a woman is in fact pregnant ... 4

MURDER.
Capital sentence should be pronounced on a conviction for——even if the accused be pregnant, although the execution of the sentence should be deferred till after delivery 66

N.

NUISANCE.
See Jurisdiction (2) (3)

O.

OBSTRUCTION.
See Jurisdiction (2) (3) (4)

OFFENCE.
See Procedure (9)

OFFICIAL LETTER.
See Waging War against the Queen (2).

P.

PENAL CODE.

See Act XLV. of 1860.
See Act XXVII. of 1870.
See Procedure (9)

PERJURY.

See Amends.

PLEA.

See Procedure (6)

POLICE OFFICER.

A—— negligently or improperly submitting an incorrect report of a local investigation may be punished under Section 29 of Act V. of 1861 in cases where the proof is insufficient to bring the case under Section 218 of the Penal Code ... 17

POLICE REPORT.

See Breach of the Peace (3)

PREGNANCY.

See Murder.

PREVIOUS CONVICTION.

See Procedure (11) (12)

PROCEDURE.

(1) No legal conviction can take place unless the opinion of the Assessors is taken on the whole of the evidence in a case ... 3

(2) In a case falling under Chapter XIV. of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a Magistrate is bound by Section 253 to summon the witnesses for the defence even if he entertain doubts as to the value of their evidence, as it is impossible to state beforehand what credit will be given to their evidence ... 15

(3) Following the Queen *vs.* Gora Chand Gope, the Court set aside an order of acquittal passed by a Deputy Magistrate in a case which he tried, on evidence not taken before himself in the case, but entirely on evidence in another case before another officer (the Joint Magistrate) ... 23

(4) Having regard to Section 375 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a Magistrate is bound to take steps to procure the attendance of all the witnesses mentioned by the accused in the list delivered to the Magistrate by whom he was committed ... 34

(5) *Per Kemp, J.*—Where a witness called by one of the parties is a competent witness, the opposite party has a right to cross-examine him though the party calling him has declined to ask a single question ... *ib.*

PROCEDURE—*(Continued).*

(6) An accused should *plead* by his own mouth and not through his counsel or pleader, though his counsel or pleader may at the proper time address the Court on his behalf ... 42

(7) Where sanction under Section 170 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to prosecute a person criminally for fabricating false evidence was not given, it was held that the error was not cured by Section 426 of that Code, and the person charged was ordered to be discharged. The sanction given by the Sessions Judge after the case was committed to him and the prisoner had pleaded to the charge is not a sanction contemplated by the law ... 45

(8) The mere assertion of a fair claim of property or right, or the mere existence of a doubt as to right is not sufficient to justify an acquittal in a case of plunder of crops. The claim to the property must be *proved* by evidence to be fair and good ... 47

(9) In a case in which the accused was charged under Sections of the Penal Code of an offence which was committed before the Penal Code came into operation, it was held that having regard to Section 4, Act XVII. of 1862 and Section 426 of the Code of Criminal Procedure the error of procedure was not sufficient to vitiate the conviction so long as the punishment awarded as under the Penal Code did not exceed that which was the legal penalty for the offence before the Penal Code became law ... 48

(10) Where a Magistrate convicted under certain repealed Sections of a law, the High Court refused to set aside the conviction, having regard to Section 426, Code of Criminal Procedure, as the conviction and sentence might have been passed under Sections of the Penal Code, and no substantial injury had been done to the accused 49

(11) As a rule, before flogging is given as an additional punishment, there ought to be formal evidence upon the record of the previous convictions relied on. The conviction and identity of the prisoner ought to be proved in the regular way. A mere kyfeut is no evidence whatever 52

(12) A mere kyfeut from the record office is not sufficient to prove a former conviction against a prisoner. There should be sworn testimony

PROCEDURE—*(Continued).*

to the fact, and also to the identification of the prisoner with the person previously convicted ... 53

(13) Where the accused who has been duly summoned or arrested under a warrant in a case under Chapter XIV., Code of Criminal Procedure, is present to meet any charge, and no evidence is forthcoming against him owing to the absence of the prosecutor and his witnesses, if it be not shown to the Magistrate that the case is one in which he ought to adjourn the inquiry under Section 224, the Magistrate is bound to discharge such accused person ... ... *ib.*

(14) Section 180 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was not intended to enable a Magistrate in ordinary cases to examine witnesses in the absence of the accused. Under Section 67 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a complainant has a right to an adjudication upon the point whether in the judgment of the Magistrate there is sufficient ground for proceeding ... *ib.*

(15) Where sanction to prosecute on a criminal charge under Section 169 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was given in the case of only one prisoner out of two prisoners who were tried together, the High Court directed the release of the prisoner in regard to whom such sanction was not given ... 55

(16) An order calling for recognizances under Section 280, or for security under Section 281, Code of Criminal Procedure, must be passed at the time of deciding the original case. If no such order is then made, subsequent proceedings must be taken under Section 282 and the parties summoned to show cause... 56

(17) Where a complaint was made by *A* that timber belonging to his master which had been cut and stacked in a certain place had been removed by *B*, who said that the timber was cut, not by *A's* master but by himself and that he had stacked it in a place where he always put his timber; it was held that the Magistrate could not proceed under Section 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, but was bound to try the charge brought against *B*, and either restore the timber to *A* or leave it where it was, according to the result of the investigation ... *ib.*

PROCEDURE—*(Continued).*

(18) Points out the importance of properly recording and attesting the confessions of prisoners under Section 205 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 63

(19) It is not necessary under Section 205 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to state in the body of the examination of the accused that the statement comprises every question put to the accused and every answer given by him, or that they were recorded in full and read to him, and that he had full liberty to add to or explain his answers. The Magistrate's attestation at the foot of the examination when duly recorded in the terms of that Section, is sufficient *primâ facie* evidence of such examination, unless the Sessions Judge doubts the genuineness of the Magistrate's signature, in which case he should take evidence on that point. The examination of the accused properly recorded is evidence, and should be allowed to go to the Jury under Section 365 of the Code ... 68

(20) Before the examination of a prisoner in the presence of the committing officer can be used as evidence against him under Section 366, Criminal Procedure Code, the provisions of Section 205 of that Code must have been complied with and the committing officer's attestation affixed in full to the examination... 83

(21) When both the disputing parties are examined and state that men were collected by their opponents for the purpose of committing a breach of the peace, a Magistrate is justified, without enquiring who was the aggressor or the aggrieved party, to proceed under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and to take whatever steps are, in his opinion, necessary to prevent a breach of the peace ... 84

(22) Where a Magistrate proceeding under Section 318, Code of Criminal Procedure, decides on the evidence in favor of a party as being in possession of the disputed land, the High Court cannot re-consider the Magistrate's decision and decide which party is in actual possession 86

(23) A complainant in a case who mentioned the names of several witnesses on his behalf was requested to produce them on a certain date. Instead of doing that, he produced only 2 witnesses, who were examined. Held that as the com-

PROCEDURE—*(Continued)*.

plainant did not apply to the Magistrate to issue summonses on the other witnesses or ask him to proceed under Section 262, Code of Criminal Procedure, the Magistrate was not wrong in law in deciding the case on the evidence which was before him 87

(24) In a case in which the accused person cited a number of witnesses, and the evidence already before the Magistrate was contradictory, it was held that the Magistrate should have summoned and examined the witnesses whom the accused wanted to call ... *ib.*

(25) The plain intention of the Legislature in Section 171 of the Criminal Procedure Code was that the Court before which an offence was committed, and by which the preliminary enquiry was made, should not be the Court to investigate, try, or commit for trial ... 88

See Assessors (1) (2)
See Breach of the Peace.
See Criminal Misappropriation.
See Evidence (1)
See Jurisdiction (1) (4)
See Warrant (2)
See Witnesses (1)

PROSECUTOR.

See Procedure (13)

PUBLIC SERVANT.

(1) Where an order had been made by a Magistrate under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in favor of A in respect of certain land, and B subsequently obtained an order from the Collector declaring him entitled to the same land, in pursuance of which he was put into possession by an officer of the Collector: it was held that, before B could be convicted under Section 188 of the Penal Code of disobeying an order made by a ——, it should be proved that he was aware of the order under Section 318, and that, having that knowledge, he disobeyed it ... 50

(2) Before a conviction can be had under Section 228 of the Penal Code of offering an insult to a ——, it must be proved that there was an *intention* to insult ... 62

See Police Officer.
See Witnesses (1)

PUNISHMENT.

See Appellate Court (1) (3)
See Full Bench Rulings (4)
See Murder.
See Procedure (9) (11)

R.

RECOGNIZANCE.

See Breach of the Peace (1) (2) (4) (5) (6) (7)
See Procedure (16)

RECORD.

(1) A Sessions nuthee should contain the —— of defence set up by the prisoner in the Sessions Court. Points out how such —— is to be made up with reference to Sections 372, 373, and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure ... 16

(2) The Magistrate's——of the proceedings prior to commitment should always be forwarded to the High Court ... 67

REGISTRATION ACT.

See Full Bench Rulings (1)

REPEALED LAW.

See Procedure (9) (10)

S.

SALT.

See Contraband.

SANCTION TO PROSECUTE.

See Full Bench Rulings (2)
See Procedure (7) (15)

SECURITY.

See Procedure (16)

SENTENCE.

See High Court (6)
See Procedure (10)

SESSIONS RECORD.

See Record.

SUBORDINATE COURT.

See Full Bench Rulings (2)

SUMMING UP.

See Assessors (1) (2)
See Culpable Homicide.
See Jury.

SUMMONS.

See Breach of the Peace (4)

SURETY.

See Warrant (2)

T.

THEFT.

Section 378 of the Penal Code does not include under the offence of —— the case when one joint proprietor takes into his own sole possession property belonging to himself and his co-proprietors which had previously been in their joint custody ... 51

THOROUGHFARE.

See Jurisdiction (4)

TRANSFER OF CASE.

See High Court (3) (4) (5)

TREASON.

(1) The special limitation of the period for prosecution (three years) in cases of —— and misprision of —— under Stat. 7, Wm. III., Cap. 3, Section 5, is an exception to the general rule in criminal cases; and in enacting Section 121 of the Indian Penal Code, the Legislature has not thought fit to limit in any way the period within which a prosecution for an offence against that enactment may be commenced, and consequently such limitation does not form part of the Penal Code ... 25

(2) *Quære*, whether, with reference to the 28th Section of Act II. of 1855, a prisoner charged with —— can be convicted on the evidence of a single witness? ... *ib.*

See Waging War against the Queen (1)

TRIAL.

See Procedure (3)

U.

UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY.

Procedure to be observed in the case of a charge under Section 154, Penal Code, against the owner of land on which an——is held, pointed out. The record of the original riot-case is no evidence in the case under Section 154 ... 6

W.

WAGING WAR AGAINST THE QUEEN.

(1) In a case in which the accused was charged with abetting the —— under Section 121 of the Penal Code, it was held that the Calcutta Gazette and the Gazette of India were admissible in evidence, under Section 8 of Act II. of 1855, to prove the proclamation and official communications of the Government relating to the war ... 25

(2) A printed official letter from the Secretary of the Government of the Punjab to the Secretary of the Government of India was held to be admissible in evidence under Section 6, Act II. of 1855 ... *ib.*

WARRANT.

(1) A —— for the arrest of a person on a charge of abduction should state the intent with which the offence was committed ... 4

(2) Before a —— can issue attaching the property of a surety, he should be called on under Section 220, Code of Criminal Procedure, to show cause why he should not pay the penalty mentioned in his bond, and it must appear clearly on the face of the record that he had such notice given him ... 82

WHIPPING.

See Appellate Court (1) (2)
See Full Bench Rulings (4)

WITNESSES.

(1) No conviction can be had under Section 228 of the Penal Code simply because —— in a case give inconsistent evidence, and give their evidence reluctantly, and take up the time of the Court ... 5

(2) An accused person is entitled to have his —— summoned and examined, even if those —— were named as implicated in the offence with which the accused is charged ...

See Cross-examination (2)
See Procedure (2) (4) (5) (14) (20) (23) (24)

TABLE OF CASES

(CRIMINAL RULINGS).

A.

Abelakh Lall *vs.* Sirnam Singh ... 50
Ameer Khan ... 60
Ameer Khan and another, *Petitioners* ... 69
Ameerooddeen ... 25

B.

Bahar Ali Kahar ... 46
Becharam Bhuttacharjee ... 67
Betts, *Petitioner* ... 6
Bharut Chunder Bose *vs.* Dwarkanath Chowdhry ... 86
Bhikaree ... 63
Bhugwan Lall ... 3
Bidhoomookhee Dabee *vs.* Sreenath Haldar ... 4
Bisumbhur Doss ... 49
Boroda Kant Mookhopadhya ... 17
Buktear Maifaraz ... 64
Bunda Ali ... 7

C.

Chetter, *Petitioner* ... 5
Chota Hurry Pramanick Tantee ... *ib.*
Chupput Khyrwar ... 83
Chutoorbhooj Bhastee *vs.* Macnaghten ... 2

D.

Dhunobur Ghose ... 33

G.

Gobind Sooboodhee ... 56
Golam Hajjam ... 16
Goshto Lall Dutt ... 68
Government of Bengal *vs.* Akotoollah ... 21
Girish Chunder Chuckravarty ... 39
Gunga Narain Mitter *vs.* Gour Soonder Chowdhry ... 85

H.

Hurri Kishen Doss ... 62
Hurronath Chowdhry and Rajander Chunder Roy ... 1

I.

Ishan Dutt ... 34

J.

Jaha Bux ... 14
Jehan Buksh ... 87

K.

Kabul Pattur ... 4
Kalichurn Dass ... 17
Kalinath Biswas ... 18
Kartick Chunder Bal *vs.* Chunder Nath Chuckerbutty ... 56
Kashee Kishore Roy *vs.* Tarinee Kant Lahoree (in foot-note) ... 42
Kasim Ali ... 67
Keamuddin *vs.* Allah Buksh ... 51
Khodee Koiburtnee *vs.* Doorgadoss Bhuttacharjee ... 82
Koonjbehary Chowdhry *vs.* Eknath Gurain ... 43

M.

Mahomed Ismail Chowdhry ... 6
Maseyk, *Petitioner* ... 1
Mohima Chunder Chuckerbutty ... 45
Mohima Chunder Doss ... 37
Mohima Chunder Shah ... 15
Mohabeer Singh ... 48
Moniruddeen Shamadar *vs.* Gour Chunder Shamadar ... 89
Municipal Commissioners, Suburbs of Calcutta *vs.* Umbica Churn Mookerjee ... 84

N.

Nassib Chowdhry *vs.* Naunoo Chowdhry 47
Nga Cho ... 2
Nobodeep Chunder Gossamee (in a foot-note) ... 71
Notabur Bera ... 78
Nuzee Nushyo ... 52

O.

Obhoy Chowdhry *vs.* Brae ... 42

P.

Panhee Aurut ... 66
Prankisto Chunder *vs.* Bissonath Chunder 6
Punchanun Bose ... 41

R.

Rajkishore Roy ... 55
Ramdoyal Singh ... 3
Ramsahie Chowdhry *vs.* Shunker Bahadoor 7
Roopa Gwalla ... 42
Roopun Rae ... 9
Rughoonath Dass *vs.* Chuckerdhun Raut.. 49
Rughoonundun Puttronuvees ... 19

S.

Sheikh Ramzan ... 53
Sheikh Tenoo ... 11
Sheogolam Doss ... 58
Sreenath Dey ... 61

T.

Taraproshad Sahoo ... 86
Tukheya Rai *vs.* Tupsee Koer ... 23
Tuki Mohamed Mundul *vs.* Kisto Nath Roy ... 53

W.

Watson & Co. *vs.* Bykuntnath Doss ... 83

CRIMINAL LETTERS.

No. 125.—States what cases should be entered in Col. 2, Magistrate's Statement D—Explains when an accused person is said to be under trial—The new forms make no alteration in the meaning of the words "discharged without trial" ... 1

No. 180.—Explains the intention of the words "each Criminal Court" in Circular No. 1, dated 11th January 1871 ... *ib.*

No. 338.—An appeal lies in all cases where a sentence of imprisonment and fine is passed, although both punishments be within the limits laid down in Section 411 of the Code of Criminal Procedure ... 3

No. 396.—All questions put by a Magistrate and answers thereto should be recorded—Course to be pursued under Section 205, Code of Criminal Procedure, in recording statement of the accused and in the Magistrate attesting such statements ... *ib.*

CIVIL CIRCULAR ORDERS.

No. 1.—Instructs officers to arrange with the Accountant-General, Bengal, for funds for transmitting judicial records through the post ... 1

No. 2.—Directs that all orders for attachment of estates for arrears of revenue be notified to the Collector in whose district the estate lies ... *ib.*

No. 3.—Draws attention to the provisions of the Court Fees Act, which require the cancellation of stamps ... 2

Memo. No. 1.—Corrigendum to be made in letter to Superintendent of Stationery circulated with Circular Memo. No.7, dated 17th December 1870 ... *ib.*

No. 4.—Instructions regarding the submission of the Annual Reports of Civil Justice ... 3

No. 5.—Prescribes new forms of Annual Statements for Small Cause Court Judges for submission to the Zillah Judges ... 7

No. 6.—Requests Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners to satisfy themselves that evidence is properly recorded by the subordinate Courts in cases under Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859 ... 12

No. 7.—Encloses Circular from the Post Master-General regarding postage on parcels ... *ib.*

Memo. No. 2—Circulates amended copy of Circular requiring orders of Civil Courts regarding attachments of estates to be notified to Collector of District in which estates are situated ... 13

No. 8.—Prescribes new rules for the police when employed in escorting remittances made by Moonsiffs ... *ib.*

Memo. No. 3.—Calls for information regarding remuneration of Nazirs when conducting sales in execution of decrees 15

No. 9.—Issues instructions regarding the service of writs of summons and of notices of appeals ... *ib.*

No. 10.—Requests Courts to satisfy themselves as to the cancellation of adhesive stamps filed between 1st April last and the receipt of Circular dated 17th January 1871 ... 19

No. 11.—Directs the punctual submission to the Accountant-General of Moonsiffs' Treasury Accounts ... *ib.*

No. 12.—Cancels C. O. No. 20, dated 1st August 1870, requiring information for the promotion of Sherishtadars from "B" to "A" Districts ... 20

No. 15.—Appoints officers named to be Commissioners for verifying petitions, &c., to be used in the High Court, and circulates General Rules for guidance on the subject ... 21

CRIMINAL CIRCULAR ORDERS.

No. 1.—Directs the discontinuance by Magistrates of the General Register of warrants ... 1

No. 2.—Directs that in future warrants for the realization of fines be issued only by the Sessions Judges—but in duplicate, one to the Magistrate and the other to the Officer in charge of the Jail ... *ib.*

No. 3.—Instructions for the preparation of the tabular forms prescribed by Circular No. 32, dated 8th November 1870 ... 2

No. 4.—Directions to Sessions Judges in the preparation of their Criminal Administration Reports ... 4

No. 5.—Makes an alteration in the Schedule of offences appended to Circular No. 3, dated 2nd February last 9

INDEX

(PRIVY COUNCIL RULINGS).

A.

ACT XXXV. OF 1858.
See Lunacy.

ACT VIII. OF 1859.
Section 2. *See Res Judicata* (1)

ACT XIV. OF 1859.
Section 13. *See Limitation* (1)
Section 15. *See Limitation* (2)

ADMISSIONS.
See Joint Property.

ADOPTION.
The mere circumstance that a deed of —— is not registered is no ground why the —— should not be believed ... 12
See Will (1)

ALLUVIAL LANDS.
See Local Investigation (1)

AMEEN.
See Local Investigation (1) (2)

ANCESTRAL PROPERTY.
See Succession.

APPEAL.
See Guardian.
See Wassilat (1)

APPELLANT.
See Question of Fact.

APPELLATE COURT.
See Issues.
See Local Investigation (1) (2)

B.

BENAMEE PURCHASE.
Plaintiff sued for the recovery of certain property on the allegation that, though the property was purchased by *A*, his adoptive mother, benamee in the name of *B*, yet that she purchased it out of her own separate income so as to make it her property, and that plaintiff, as her heir, was, on her death, entitled to the property. The defendant denied that the purchase was made with the money of *A*, and averred that the property was purchased with the money of *B*, the person in whose name the purchase stood.

BENAMEE PURCHASE—*(Continued).*
Held that the defendant's answer was substantially an argumentative traverse of the truth of the plaintiff's story, and that the material issue was not whether the defendant's averment of purchase with the money of *B* was made out, but whether the plaintiff's story of purchase by *A* with her own money benamee in the name of *B* was true ... 7
Held, further, that, even if *A* purchased the property with her own money, yet nevertheless, if she purchased it with the express intention at the time that, after her death, it should go to *B*, in whose name she purchased it, that would not be a purchase benamee within the meaning of the real issue in the case, and that it would make no difference in point of law whether *A* did or did not reserve a life-interest and control over the disposition of the proceeds of the property during her life ... *ib.*

BONA FIDE.
See Limitation (2)

BOUNDARY CASE.
See Question of Fact (3)

C.

COMPROMISE.
See Wassilat (1)

CONDITIONAL SALE.
See Mortgage (2) (3) (4)

CONSIDERATION-MONEY.
See Contract.
See Mortgage (1)

CONTRACT.
In a case in which the plaintiff alleges that he agreed to sign, and that he

CONTRACT—*(Continued).*

executed a deed of sale for a consideration of a sum of money, in consequence of pressure put upon him, and in order to get back certain papers, &c., of his which had been abstracted by the defendant and his servants, he cannot, whether under the English or Mahomedan Law, or under the general rule of equity and good conscience, be entitled to treat the deed as a mere nullity, and be allowed both to avoid the —— and to retain the money ... 50

CONVEYANCE.

See Title.

CO-PARCENARY.

See Succession.

COSTS.

See Guardian.

CUSTOM.

If it is contended that the succession to property is regulated by any special family-custom, that custom ought to be alleged and proved with distinctness and certainty ... 47

See Succession (1)

D.

DEED.

Instruments which are proved by all the attesting witnesses, and against which there is no evidence on the other side, ought not to be set aside and treated as worth nothing on a mere possible suspicion of perjury and forgery ... 12

E.

ESTOPPEL.

See Hindoo Widow (1) (2)

See Mortgage (1)

See Res Judicata (1) (2)

EVIDENCE.

When —— of doubtful admissibility has been received in a cause in India, the Privy Council will deal with the case as they think substantial justice requires, and will not allow any merely technical objections to prevail ... 1

See Question of Fact.

See Will (2)

F.

FINDINGS OF FACT.

See Joint Property.

FORECLOSURE.

See Mortgage (1)

FORUM, LAW OF THE.

See Mortgage (2) (3) (4)

G.

GUARDIAN.

The —— of an infant who files an appeal to the Privy Council has no right to insist that the appeal should go on when the infant, on coming of age, applies to withdraw from the appeal. If the —— has incurred costs, he may have a claim to be recouped from the estate of the infant, if he has any ... 19

H.

HINDOO WIDOW.

(1) *B B*, a Hindoo, had 2 sons, *K S* and *S L*, and a widow (*L*). *K S* predeceased *B B*. *S L* was afterwards given in adoption by *B B* and *L* to the widow (*O*) of *K S*, but such adoption was invalid, as *K S* had not given *O* permission to adopt. *B B* and his son *K S* then died, the latter surviving the former. Before his death, *B B* mortgaged the property in suit, and in a suit brought in the name of *S L* after his death against the mortgagees, *L* put in a petition, in which she agreed that *S L* and *O* should alone be entered as the owners of the property, and that her own name should be omitted. In a further suit for redemption of the mortgage, *L* put in another petition, in which she said she had no claim whatever to the proprietary rights in the property, and that *O*, in her own right and as guardian of *S L*, was the proprietor and owner. *L* now sued the widow of *K S*, alleging that she is the heir of *S L*, and as such entitled to the property.

Held that, on the death of *B B*, *S L* became his heir, and upon the death of *S L*, *L* was entitled to the property ... 1

(2) Held, further, that *L* was not estopped by her petitions in the two suits referred to from claiming the property as heir to *S L*, as at the time she presented the petitions she had not, in fact, any interest in the property at all; and that, assuming that *L* did intend to convey a part interest in the property which she supposed or assumed she had, she could not, on any principle of law or justice, be prevented from set-

HINDOO WIDOW—*(Continued).*

ting up her real right as heir of her son when that right actually accrued ... 16

I.

ISSUES.

Observations on the setting of issues by Courts of original jurisdiction under the Code of Civil Procedure, and on the duty of an Appellate Court when an objection is made before it that the first Court did not lay down issues in a case ... 15

J.

JOINT FAMILY.

See Limitation (1)

JOINT PROPERTY.

Concurrent finding of the Lower Courts, based upon admissions made in written documents that property which had been originally self-acquired had come into a common stock and become ——, upheld ... 1

JURISDICTION.

Where a case, heard in review before the four Judges of the late Sudder Court at Agra, was left undecided (because the four Judges were equally divided in opinion) when the High Court in the North-Western Provinces was established, it was held that one of the Judges of the High Court sitting as a single Judge had jurisdiction under Section 27 of the Letters Patent to hear and determine the case ... 16

L.

LIFE-INTEREST.

See Benamee Purchase.

LIMITATION.

(1) Section 13 of Act XIV. of 1859 deals with suits between one or some member or members of a joint family, and some other member of the joint family complaining of an ouster of some members by others, or of a failure by the member in occupation to account for profits or to pay maintenance where it is due. That Section does not apply to a suit in which one member representing the rest of the members sues to redeem a mortgage in which the title of the plaintiff to redeem is questioned, and the question of joint or not joint property has only to be decided incidentally for the

LIMITATION—*(Continued).*

purpose of establishing that title as against strangers ... 24

(2) Before a person can obtain the benefit of Section 15 of Act XIV. of 1859, he must clearly and distinctly show that he fills the position of the person contemplated by that Section as a person who ought to be protected, and he must show three things: first, that he is a purchaser according to the proper meaning of that term; second, that he is a purchaser *bonâ fide;* and third, that he is a purchaser for valuable consideration. Meaning of the term purchaser in this Section defined... *ib.*

See Wassilat.

LOCAL INVESTIGATION.

(1) Reverses, on a consideration of the facts, the judgment of the High Court which set aside a decision of the Lower Court as to the position of certain chur lands in the Brahmapootra, when the decision of the Lower Court was founded on a long and careful ——, which was conducted by an Ameen who visited the spot, and whose integrity was unimpeached ... 20

(2) An Appellate Court in India ought not to interfere with the result of a —— except upon clearly defined and sufficient grounds, which must be expressed in its judgment ... *ib.*

LUNACY.

Act XXXV. of 1858 contemplates only the question of —— or sanity at the time of the enquiry; there is no provision in the Act that the enquiry shall extend to the ascertainment of the period at which the alleged lunatic first became of unsound mind. The report of an officer on such enquiry has not the effect of *res judicata* upon the issue between two parties who allege that the —— commenced at different times ... 1

M.

MESNE PROFITS.

See Wassilat.

MORTGAGE.

(1) A defendant who has executed a mortgage, and formally acknowledged under his hand and seal the receipt of the consideration-money, may, in a suit for foreclosure by the mortgagee out of possession, deny that the money was advanced, the mortgage-deed not creating any estoppel ... 14

MORTGAGE—*(Continued).*

(2) Under the law of the Madras Presidency, the interest of a mortgagee under a deed of conditional sale becomes absolute, according to the terms of the contract, by the mere failure of the mortgagor to redeem at or before the time specified in the deed ... 35

(3) As regards Bengal, a Full Bench decision of the High Court ruling to the same effect in cases to which Regulation XVII. of 1866 does not apply referred to with approval ... *ib.*

(4) The ruling in the present case not intended to interfere with any rule of property established by judicial decisions, so as to form part of the Law of the Forum wherever such may prevail, or to affect any title founded thereon ... *ib.*

N.

NULLITY.

See Contract.

O.

ONUS.

See Benamee Purchase.
See Question of Fact.

P.

POSSESSION.

See Will (1)

PRACTICE.

See Evidence.
See Issues.
See Joint Property.
See Question of Fact.

PREJUDICE.

See Transfer of Suit.

PURCHASER.

See Limitation (2)

Q.

QUESTION OF FACT.

(1) Principle on which the Privy Council proceed in dealing with a mere —— on which the Courts in India have decided in the same way. That the appellant must prove in such a case ... 5

(2) The concurrent judgments of two Lower Courts as to the weight to be attributed to evidence will not be interfered with unless there has been some violation of the ordinary principles upon which causes ought to be tried ... 23

QUESTION OF FACT—*(Continued).*

(3) Follows the principle on which the Privy Council have hitherto acted in appeals on questions of fact, and confirms the concurrent decisions of the Lower Courts on a —— as to boundaries, where the local knowledge of local Judges and the observation of the local witnesses are all important ... 37

R.

REDEMPTION.

See Mortgage (2) (3) (4)
See Res Judicata (2)

RES JUDICATA.

(1) The rule laid down by the Judges in the Duchess of Kingston's case on the law of estoppel is not technical or peculiar to the law of England, but is perfectly consistent with the 2nd Section of the Code of Civil Procedure ... 30

(2) The decision of a Revenue Court in a summary suit for arrears of rent brought by *A* against *B* and others, in which *B* set up an ekrarnamah under which he claimed on behalf of himself and others to hold certain land as rent-free, which suit was dismissed by the Revenue Court, who held the ekrarnamah to be valid, is no bar as —— to a suit for redemption by *B* against *A* on his title as mortgagee in which *B* set up the same ekrarnamah ... *ib.*

See Lunacy.

REVENUE COURT.

See Res Judicata (2)

S.

SELF-ACQUIRED PROPERTY.

See Joint Property.

STAMP.

The plaintiff sued his elder brother for a share in certain family-property. The defendant raised a question of family-custom, and relied on a certain deed of release which he said the plaintiff had given him, but the existence of which the plaintiff denied. That document was not stamped, though on the face of it it stated that it was to be ——ed. No objection was taken on that score to the document before the first and the Lower Appellate Courts, who considered that the document was a genuine

STAMP—*(Continued).*

document executed by the plaintiff. After its production it had an insufficient —— of 2 annas put upon it. The High Court, on appeal, left the deed as part of the evidence in the case, but qualified its effect and the extent of its operation by making it a deed of release, releasing so much of that which the plaintiff might otherwise claim as would be covered by the insufficient —— of 2 annas. Held that the High Court might either have refused to admit the document for want of a ——, or, which would be more correct, it might have required it to be properly ——ed and the penalty paid into Court; but the course taken was entirely without precedent, without principle, and without authority ... 32

SUCCESSION.

(1) By the common law of Hindoostan, the descent is in coparceny where no other custom or right is proved 10

(2) The fact that a settlement was made by the Government in the name of an elder son, and that he has continued to be solely registered from that time to this, affords no conclusive evidence against the title of the younger brother in property which was once the property of the father. The mere fact that one of two brothers was registered so as to be the proprietor to the outer world is not of great weight on that point, if there has been a continuous enjoyment of the property by both brothers upon equal terms *ib.*

See Custom.
See Hindoo Widow (1) (2)

SUSPICION.
See Deed.

T.

TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS.
See Evidence.

TITLE.

Where a Hindoo executes a kobala in favor of another at a time when he has no —— to the property, his subsequently becoming entitled as heir would not make the kobala good ... 12

TRANSFER OF SUIT.

Where there is a general feeling in a district against a party to a suit, and such party feels that he is not likely to have a fair trial before the local Judge with that feeling in the district against him, his proper course is to petition the European Judge to remove the case into his Court, and to try it in the first instance ... 8

W.

WASILAT.

(1) Where the parties to suit which went up on appeal to the High Court entered into an agreement in 1826, by one of the terms of which it was stipulated that both parties should provisionally take possession of certain portions of the land in dispute, but that either party would be at liberty within 12 months from the date of the agreement to apply to the proper tribunal to effect a rectification in the quantity of land which each was to hold permanently, and one of the parties did make such application to the local Judge, who refused to entertain it on the ground that the appeal (which under the agreement was to be abandoned) was still before the High Court, it was held by the Privy Council that the local Judge should either have entertained the application himself as an original suit, or have kept possession of it until a petition had been presented to the Sudder Court to make the agreement a proceeding of that Court, and to have an order giving effect to it by way of compromise ... 38

(2) Where the final rectification of the shares of land resulted in the respondent getting a larger portion than he had held provisionally under the agreement, and the respondent was put into possession of the additional share in 1854, his right to —— for such portion followed as a matter of course unless barred by some final impediment, and limitation in a suit by him for such ——, it was held, began to run from 1845 when the rightful partition was completed ... *ib.*

WILL.

(1) The case of a Hindoo claiming by adoption under a —— which was put forward shortly after the testator's death, and which was acted upon and recognized for a period of 27 years by the whole family, the validity of which — was questioned

WILL—*(Continued).*

in a suit brought by the person adopted against members of the family, was considered to be analogous to a case in which the legitimacy of a person in possession is questioned a very considerable time after his possession has been acquired by a party who has a strict legal right to question his legitimacy. In such a case, the defendant, in order to defend his status, should be allowed to invoke against the claimant every presumption which reasonably arises from the long recognition of his legitimacy by members of the family or other persons 41

(2) Judgment of the Appellate Court, which differed from the Lower Court as to the evidence with respect to the validity of the ——, reversed ..? ib.

d

TABLE OF CASES

(PRIVY COUNCIL RULINGS).

A.

Ajoodhya Pershad *vs.* Omrao Singh ... 1

C.

Chellaymal *vs.* Muttialamal ... 1

G.

Govind Soonduree Debea *vs.* Juggodumba Debea ... 5
Guthrie *vs.* Abdool Muzuffer Nooroodin Ahmed ... 50

K.

Kali Chunder Chowdhry *vs.* Shib Chunder Bhadoory ... 12
Khugowlee Singh *vs.* Hossein Bux Khan... 30

L.

Lalljee Tahoo *vs.* The Collector of Tirhoot 23

M.

Mohur Singh *vs.* Ghureeba ... 8
Mussamut Mitna *vs.* Syud Fuzl Rub ... 15
Mussamut Oodey Koowur *vs.* Mussamut Ladoo ... *ib.*
Mantappa Nadgowda *vs.* Baswantro Nadgowda ... 32
Maharaj Koomar Baboo Guneshur Singh *vs.* Doorga Dutt ... 37

N.

Nilcomul Lahoree *vs.* Gonomonee Dabea... 38

P.

Pattabhiramier *vs.* Vencata Row Naiken... 35

R.

Rajah Chundernath Roy *vs.* Ramjoy Mozoomdar ... 7
Ram Surun Singh *vs.* Mussamut Pran Pearee ... 14
Ranee Bistoopria Putmadaye *vs.* Nund Dhul 19
Ranee Surut Soonduree Dossee *vs.* Baboo Prosunno Coomar Tagore ... 20
Radhanath Doss *vs.* Gisborne and Company 24
Rajendro Nath Holdar *vs.* Jogendro Nath Banerjee ... 41

S.

Serumah Umah *vs.* Palathan Vitil Marya Coothy Umah ... 47

U.

Umritnath Chowdhry *vs.* Goureenath Chowdhry ... 10

The Weekly Reporter:

APPELLATE HIGH COURT.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Limitation—Cause of action—Reversioners—Right of suit.

Case No. 1292 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Gya, dated the 31st March 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 30th September 1869.

Pershad Singh and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Chedee Lall and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Gregory for Appellants.

Baboo Kalee Kishen Sein for Respondents.

In a suit against a widow for acts of waste and alienation alleged to have taken place during the lives of the plaintiff's mothers who were then the next heirs to the property:

HELD that, as the mothers allowed more than 12 years to elapse, their cause of action expired, and that it did not revive in favor of the plaintiffs who had since been born, and had now arrived at majority.

HELD that, if by the death of the widow a new cause of action accrued to the plaintiffs as reversioners entitled to the property, they might sue again; but they could not succeed in the present suit.

Jackson, J.—WE think that, upon the first ground raised in this special appeal, the decision of the Lower Appellate Court must be reversed.

The plaintiffs sued complaining of acts of waste and alienation on the part of the widow, such acts having taken place more than 30 years ago. The widow was still alive, and certain other parties who are also defendants are in possession of part of the property.

As regards the particular cause of action, on which the plaintiffs sued, it seems to us that the suit is barred by limitation. At the time when the alienation complained of occurred, the mothers of the plaintiffs were alive, and were then the next heirs entitled to this property, and they might have brought the suit which the plaintiffs have now brought, but they did not do so. They allowed more than 12 years to elapse, and this cause of action is not revived in favor of the plaintiffs who have since been born, and have now arrived at majority.

It seems that the widow whose acts were complained of died during the pendency of the suit; and the plaintiffs contend that, this being so, they are entitled to have their suit dealt with as if she had previously died, they being now the reversioners entitled to the property. It seems to us that this is out of the question. The plaint was framed on a different cause of action altogether, and no application was made to amend the plaint. It seems to us clear that the plaintiffs were not entitled to have the decree which they have got upon the plaint which they brought into Court. They have probably a new cause of action upon the death of the widow, and may sue again if so advised, but the present suit ought to have been dismissed.

The decision of the Lower Appellate Court will, therefore, be reversed with costs.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Rent-suits—Judgments.

Case No. 1523 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Purneah, dated the 31st March 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 27th November 1869.

Dhunraj Koonwar (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Ooggur Narain Koonwar (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Tarucknath Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Obinash Chunder Banerjee for Respondent.

Unless the circumstances of one rent-suit are on all fours with those of another, it is a serious error for a Court to refer to its judgment in one case for the reasons of its decision in another case.

Bayley, J.—We think that in this case the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court, so far as it regards the plaintiff's claim to enhanced rent for 12-16th of 1276 must be reversed.

The plaintiff sued for arrears of rent at the old rate for 1274 and 1275, and at an enhanced rate for 1276. As to the arrears claimed at the old rate for 1274-1275, the plaintiff got a decree, and no appeal was made by the defendant on that point. The claim as to enhanced rate was on the grounds, (1) of the increased productiveness of the soil, (2) of the increased value of the produce, and (3) of the defendant paying at a lesser rate of rent than the *prevailing* rate as paid by the same class of ryots for lands with similar advantages in the neighbourhood.

It was, under the ordinary rules of pleading, for the plaintiff to prove these allegations.

In regard to the first two grounds of enhancement, however, the plaintiff's pleader here gives up the case. The only remaining question is whether the plaintiff has proved the last ground of enhancement, *viz.*, whether the rate paid by the defendant was less than the prevailing rate as paid by the same class of ryots for adjacent lands with similar advantages, and whether on this ground plaintiff could get a decree at the enhanced rate sued for for the 12-16th of 1276.

We have heard all the evidence adduced by the plaintiff on this point, and it is clear that plaintiff does not by it prove that the rate claimed by the plaintiff (Rupee 1 6 annas per beegah) is paid by the *same class of ryots* for adjacent lands with similar advantages and is the *prevailing* rate, that is to say, the rate paid by so large a majority of the same class of tenants for such lands as would justify one to hold the rate claimed to be the "*prevailing*" rate. Upon this ground, therefore, the plaintiff, being unable to prove his claim to the enhanced rate, must fail to obtain a decree in this case for the 12-16th of 1276.

Another objection taken to the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is, that there is no decision by that Court on the contested question as to what was the standard measurement pole of the pergunnah. It is true that there was a dispute on this point before the Ameen who preferred to the Collectorate and adopted the pole thence received as the standard pole, but still it was for the Lower Appellate Court to adjudicate in this suit for enhanced rent the question whether such pole was the standard of measurements for the particular pergunnah or division in which these lands were. No decision whatever has been come to by the Lower Appellate Court on this point.

There is also no decision by the Lower Appellate Court on the question, distinctly raised before it by the defendant, *viz.*, whether certain lands claimed by the plaintiff as subject to enhancement were liable to assessment at all, the averment of defendant being that they were lakheraj land. But, be it as it may, it is sufficient to say that the Lower Appellate Court has given the plaintiff a decree to enhanced rent at the rate of Rupee 1-6 annas without any evidence as to that being the "*prevailing*" rate *generally* paid, and not only by five or six witnesses, by the same class of ryots for lands adjacent, with similar advantages. It is true that, while, on the one hand, the defendant's written statement was a clear averment of his right under Section 4, Act X. of 1859, for having held at one uniform rate from the time of the Permanent Settlement, yet, on the other, defendant's

eposition and that of his agent on oath was little contradictory to that statement; but was for the plaintiff to prove his case efore he could rely on the weakness of the efendant's case.

As the plaintiff, therefore, has failed to rove his claim to enhanced rent of 12-16th or 1276, the judgment of the Lower Apellate Court on this point must be reversed, nd the plaintiff's suit dismissed.

Each party will bear his own costs in all he Courts.

This decision, however, must not be nderstood to prejudice any future claim hat the plaintiff may have to enhanced ent. It simply dismisses the plaintiff's resent claim to enhanced rent for 12-16th f 1276, because the plaintiff has failed to rove the particular grounds which he rged in this particular case.

We will only add that in this case the ower Appellate Court has seriously erred referring to his judgments in other ases for his reasons for the decision of this ase. When a plaintiff sues several defendnts under Act X. of 1859, the separate enants are in a position to make, and often o make, quite separate defences. The Lower Appellate Court, therefore, should always see ow far the circumstances of one case are eally on all fours to those of another before refers to the judgment in the one for that n another.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Survey-maps—Evidence.

Case No. 1314 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of West Burdwan, dated the 3rd June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Bistopore, dated the 17th February 1870.

Gudadhur Banerjee and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Tara Chand Banerjee and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. M. M. Dutt and *Baboo Bangshee Dhur Sein* for Appellants.

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Respondents.

In a case involving a boundary-dispute, a survey-map, if not conclusive evidence, is evidence of an important character which ought to be looked into and considered.

Kemp, J.—Looking to the plaint in this case, the cause of action appears to be that the defendant cut down trees belonging to the jungle mehal Mouzah Bashdeopore, the property of the plaintiffs. The defendants set up an independent title, stating that the lands were not included in the plaintiff's talook; that they really belonged to the debuttur lands of Baboo Brijo Kishore Singh; and that those lands had been purchased by them in execution of a decree against the said Baboo Brijo Kishore Singh. Looking to the judgment of the first Court, it is very clear that the first Court treated this suit as a boundary-dispute, for the issues were whether the jungle in suit has been held khas by the plaintiffs as belonging to their putnee talook, or whether it was the ancestral rent-free property of Baboo Brijo Kishore purchased by the defendants. The first Court states that the plaintiffs produced no documentary evidence in support of their title, and with reference to the witnesses the Moonsiff says that they are men of low caste and tenants of the plaintiffs, and therefore he considers their evidence not trustworthy. It appears that an Ameen was deputed to hold a local investigation in this case, and as the plaintiffs could not with their plaint file the survey-map which was subsequently filed—inasmuch as they could not, until the defendants put in their written statement, know that the case would be in the nature of a boundary-dispute—this map, to which it is alleged the predecessors of the defendants and the plaintiffs were parties, was put in, and the Moonsiff ordered the Ameen to enquire into and compare the survey-map, if two days' fees were put in by the plaintiffs. It appears that the plaintiffs paid these fees. But the Judge, on appeal, held that this survey-map could not be received as evidence in the case.

We are of opinion that in a case of this description which involves a boundary-dispute, a survey-map, if not conclusive, is evidence of an important character which ought to be looked into and considered. It is not evidence which it was within the power

of the plaintiffs to manufacture, nor under the circumstances of the case was it imperative upon them to file this evidence with their plaint. The document is one which has come from a public office, and which has been to a certain extent admitted by the first Court. The Judge was, therefore, wrong to reject it. We remand the case and direct the Judge to admit as evidence and consider the survey-map put in by the plaintiffs.

The decision passed by the Judge is reversed, and this appeal decreed with costs.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Deposits—Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862.

Case No. 825 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of West Burdwan, dated the 17th February 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 31st December 1869.

Kristo Protibar and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Alladinee Dossee and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bungshee Dhur Sein for Appellants.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Nulleel Chunder Sein* for Respondents.

A party is not entitled to benefit from a deposit under Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862, if it was paid in without a tender to, and refusal by, the opposite party.

Paul, J.—In this case, there are no grounds for special appeal. The questions raised between the parties are simply questions of fact. The Appellate Court has disbelieved the oral evidence adduced by the defendant in support of the payments pleaded. With regard to the money paid under Act VI., it is quite clear that that money was not paid in after a tender to, and refusal by, the plaintiff, and therefore the defendant is not entitled to any benefit from such deposit.

The decree of the Lower Court will, therefore, stand. As to the money paid in under Act VI., the party who made the deposit will be entitled, on a proper application being made to the Collectorate, to get the same back.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Costs—Section 189, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 381 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Hooghly, dated the 23rd June 1870, reversing an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 14th February 1870.

Janokee Nath Mookerjee and others (Judgment-debtors), *Appellants,*

versus

Joy Kishen Mookerjee (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Shome for Respondent.

The mere specification of costs in a decree without an allotment of responsibility is not a sufficient compliance with Section 189, Act VIII. of 1859.

Kemp, J.—The points taken in this special appeal are, first, that, as the decretal order is silent as to costs, no costs can be recovered by the special respondent in execution of the decree. The next point is that, no interest having been awarded, the decree-holder cannot recover in execution any interest on the costs. The first Court held that, as there was no separate order in the decree with reference to costs, the Court could not in the present execution-case award any amount on account of costs, and that the decree-holder ought to get the decree amended and take out fresh execution of the same. The Judge, on appeal, reversed the decision of the first Court, observing that the order of the Judge in English distinctly states that the appeal is decreed with costs. On referring to the judg-

ment in English, we find that such is the case, but then in the decretal order which is drawn up in the vernacular there is no provision made as to costs Under Section 189 of Act VIII. of 1859, the decree must state the amount of costs incurred in the suit, and by what parties and in what proportions they are to be paid, and this decree is to be signed by the Judge. The Judge appears to think that, because there is a schedule appended to the decree of the costs incurred by both the appellant and respondent, this is a sufficient compliance with the provisions of Section 189; but such is not the case, for there is no order as to what parties and in what proportion the costs are to be paid. The mere array of costs incurred, without saying who is responsible for these costs, is not a sufficient compliance with the Section above quoted. It is, therefore, with regret that we are obliged to remand this case in order that the decree-holder may take steps to have the decree amended. In doing so, the Judge must distinctly understand that he is not to go behind the original judgment, but simply amend the decree so that it may accord with the judgment.

With reference to the question of interest, under the ruling of the Full Bench published in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 109, no interest can be awarded in execution.

Each party must bear his own costs of this appeal.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Execution—Bona fides.

Case No. 327 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 5th July 1870, affirming an order of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 21st January 1870.

Seetanath Mundul (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Anund Chunder Roy and others (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Oopendro Chunder Bose for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

If a person is to be concluded by the contention that his application to execute is not *bonâ fide*, he should be given an opportunity of explaining fully and clearly all his acts.

Paul, J.—In this case, it appears to us that the appeal should be allowed. An application was made on the 17th of January 1870 to execute a decree dating so far back as the month of March 1859. On the present application for execution being made, the Moonsiff called for a report from his seristah, and on a perusal of that report considered the application barred by limitation, and refused to issue execution. The Appellate Court, with some general observations with reference to the utility of applying a fixed principle of law in matters of this description, upheld the decision of the Moonsiff; but neither in the one Court nor in the other do I find that the facts of the case were at all investigated, or that the judgment-creditor was given any opportunity of explaining that matters which appeared to impute to him laches were *de facto* capable of explanation. In this case a certain application was made in 1865, and certain proceedings were held upon that application, on which, however, we have no very clear information. Again, in 1868, certain other proceedings took place, and it appears that through the apparent negligence of the judgment-creditor in not depositing some Ameen's fees, the sale fell through. It appears to us that, if a person is to be concluded by the contention that his application to execute is not *bonâ fide*, he should be given an opportunity of explaining fully and clearly all his acts. In this case that opportunity has not been given, and it is, therefore, impossible to uphold either of the judgments of the Courts below. The decision of the Lower Court will be reversed and the case sent back for trial.

Kemp, J.—I entirely concur in this judgment. The Judge should send for the proceedings in the execution-case of 1865. He has the power and is bound to do so under Section 168 of Act VIII. of 1859.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Reversioners—Parties.

Kristo Sunkur Dutt Roy (Defendant), *Petitioner,*

versus

Koylashnath Dutt Roy (Plaintiff), *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Petitioner.

No one for Opposite Party.

In a suit to recover possession of property held by a widow, the reversioner was held to have been erroneously made a co-defendant.

Jackson, J.—THIS is an application to be allowed to appeal *in formâ pauperis* from a decision of Moulvie Syed Abdoollah, Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh. Kisto Sunkur Dutt Roy, who is the applicant, states that his interests are affected by the decree in this case. The plaintiff had brought a suit to recover possession of certain property as the adopted son of the husband of one Hurro Soondurree, who, as the widow, was in possession of her deceased husband's property. Kristo Sunkur Dutt Roy came in claiming to be the reversioner. He was at first made a co-defendant. Subsequently, however, the Subordinate Judge considered that, as his interests were remote and contingent upon his being alive upon the death of the widow, and that he at present had not any interest in the property, he accordingly, in deciding the case, removed Kristo Sunkur Dutt Roy from the category of the defendants, and ultimately decreed the plaintiff's claim only against the widow. Kristo Sunkur Dutt Roy now asks this Court to allow him to appeal from that decision.

We are inclined to think that Kristo Sunkur Dutt Roy ought not to have been made a defendant in this litigation at all. He is not at present interested in this property, and it is a question whether he will ever have any interest at all. At the same time, it is a great pity that the Subordinate Judge did not see this from the very first. The applicant's rights may undoubtedly be very much injured by the course adopted by the Subordinate Judge, first by making him a defendant and then striking his name off, and finally actually inserting his name in the decree as one of the parties to the suit. Looking at the circumstance that Kristo Sunkur Dutt Roy should not have been made a party, we think we ought not at present to allow him to appeal. But we direct that the Subordinate Judge strike his name out of the list of the defendants in the decree. The Subordinate Judge, having previously removed him from among the co-defendants, appears to have made a mistake in inserting his name in the decree afterwards. If there is any difficulty in carrying out this order, we will admit an appeal to carry out the order.

The decision in this case will not in any way affect the interests of the reversioner, as he was no party to that decision.

A copy of this order will be forwarded to the Subordinate Judge.

The 5th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Sale of portion of a tenure—Section 108, Act VIII., 1859.

Case No. 1401 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Subordinate Judge of Dacca, dated the 4th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Lechragunge, dated the 30th September 1869.

Nund Lall Roy and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Gooroo Churn Bose and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee for Appellants.

Baboos Kishen Dyal Roy, Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar, and *Chunder Mohun Sein* for Respondents.

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Where a sharer in an undivided talook, after obtaining a decree for money due to him on account of his share of the rent, brings to sale a portion of the tenure corresponding with the share of the rent for which he obtained a decree, the sale has no further effect than any other sale in which the right of the judgment-debtor is sold.

Jackson, J.—There seems from the facts of this case as put before us to have been a shikmee talook called Prankisto Roy, which was the joint property of Tripoorah Soondurree and Ram Soondur Roy, each holding an 8-annas share. The share of Ram Soondur Roy was purchased, we are not told when, by Soodharam Roy, and that share was afterwards sold in execution of a decree against the sons of Soodharam Roy, and was purchased partly in August 1860 by the plaintiffs Nos. 2 to 8, and partly in September 1864 by the plaintiff No. 1. Subsequent to these purchases, the 4 annas proprietor of the zemindaree in which the shikmee talook was situated brought an action for arrears of rent due to him upon his 4-annas share of that talook. He made Tripoorah Soonduree and Ram Soondur Roy defendants in that case. Against them he obtained a decree, and in execution of that decree he put up for sale 4 annas of the shikmee talook, and one of the defendants in this suit became the purchaser.

The present plaintiffs allege that by these proceedings in the Collector's Court, and the purchase by the defendant who has been put into possession by the Collector, they have been dispossessed of 2 annas out of the 8 annas share belonging to Ram Soondur Roy, and they bring this suit to recover possession.

The first Court gave the plaintiffs a decree, considering that they had been in possession of Ram Soondur's share with the knowledge of the zemindar. The Lower Appellate Court reversed the decision of the first Court, and dismissed the plaintiffs' suit, because the plaintiffs, after their purchase, had not registered themselves as proprietors of the shikmee talook in the zemindar's serishta, and because the Appellate Court presumed from that fact that the zemindar was not acquainted with the fact of the purchase; and he considered that, in the absence of the registration, the zemindar was entitled to sue for arrears of rent against the registered talookdar, and that the Collector was right to sell the property as against such registered talookdar, and that the defendant obtained a good title under such sale.

There has been a long contention on both sides as regards the law which is applicable to this case. The first question which appears to arise upon it is as to the law under which the sale by the Collector was held. It has been argued that it was the tenure which was sold. But we are quite satisfied that the sale, whatever might be the effect of it, was held under the provisions of Section 108, Act X. of 1859, and that it was not the tenure which was sold. Under this Section, a sharer in an undivided talook, after obtaining a decree for money due to him on account of his share of the rent, can bring to sale the whole under-tenure under certain circumstances. But in this case the proprietor, instead of adopting that course, brought to sale only a portion of the tenure which corresponded with the share of the rent for which he obtained a decree. There might possibly be some argument, if he had brought to sale the whole tenure, that the sale would have come under the provisions of Act VIII. of 1865, B. C, by which a tenure is sold free from all incumbrances. But looking at the course which the proprietor has adopted by selling only a portion of the tenure, that portion was sold, as stated in Section 108, "in the same manner "as any other immoveable property may be "sold in execution of a decree for money "under the provisions of the two next following Sections." The sale, therefore, would have no further effect than any other sale in which the right of the judgment-debtor was sold.

Applying this view of the law to this case, there can be no doubt about the effect of the sale, as the right of Ram Soondur Roy had long ago passed away from him by sale, first to Soodharam Roy, and afterwards to the present plaintiffs. The sale of 2 annas of Ram Soondur Roy's share in the tenure in the year 1868 by the Collector carried with it no results whatever. The purchaser having purchased only the rights and interests of Ram Soondur Roy in those 2 annas, and those rights being no longer in existence, purchased nothing. This is the point upon which the special appeal has been laid before us, and we think that the contention is good. We shall, therefore, set aside the decision of the Subordinate Judge on this point, and decree the plaintiffs' suit for 2 annas of the shikmee talook, with costs.

The 5th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Documents—Mofussil procedure—Special appeals.

Case No. 1344 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of West Burdwan, dated the 10th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 30th March 1870.

Nund Kishore Doss Mohunt (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Kulpo Roy (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Ashootosh Dhur and *Rajendro Nath Bose* for Appellant.

Baboos Juggodanund Mookerjee and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Respondent.

The rules which regulate the conduct of cases in the Mofussil Courts do not necessitate the proving of documents which are not disputed.

Grounds of special appeal should be specific, and should indicate clearly the error of law assigned, or the substantial error or defect in law in the procedure or investigation which is imputed; and in the latter case it should be made to appear on the face of the ground of appeal that such error or defect probably produced error or defect in the decision on the merits, by stating what bearing it had on the merits.

Paul, J.—If the rule which is now being adopted by the Chief Justice in hearing applications for the admission of special appeals required an illustration of its utility, this case will afford a very striking example. In this case, the decision turned entirely upon certain questions of fact upon which the Appellate Court came to a very clear conclusion as follows: "That, by judicial documents, the plaintiff has proved that he "carried on business separate from the family; that he has always been in possession "of this estate on his own account; that "the family separated in 1263 B.S.; and that "he has been in possession since the separation." The questions of facts were thus very clearly and very distinctly found by the Lower Appellate Court; and that Court also devoted considerable time and trouble to the dissection of the case, and to the consideration of the evidence. Under these circumstances, one would have thought that the most contentious mind in the world could hardly have discovered anything justifying a resort to a special appeal.

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If the case of Beglar *versus* Toka Sherol, reported in Volume VI., Moore's Indian Appeals, page 522, be consulted, it will be found there to be substantially laid down by the Privy Council that the rules which regulate the conduct of cases in the Mofussil Courts do not necessitate the proving of documents which are not disputed. The remarks of the Privy Council are as follows: "It is said on the part of the appellant that "that will was not properly in evidence, for "although a will was produced (or rather "an official copy of a will was produced) "there was no examination of witnesses, "&c., &c. If it would be necessary to decide that question, their Lordships would "be inclined to hold that the will was sufficiently in evidence for the purposes of this "suit. The Regulation provides that, where "documents are produced, and they are not "disputed, they shall be received without "proof." Therefore, I am right in holding that the ground as drawn is no ground of special appeal.

The other grounds I do not notice in detail, because they fall within one or the other of the two criteria within which I have said these grounds of special appeal came.

I desire here to point out that the grounds of special appeal should be specific, and should indicate clearly the error of law assigned or the substantial error or defect in law in the procedure or investigation which is imputed; and in the latter case it should be made to appear on the face of the ground of appeal, that such error or defect probably produced error or defect in law in the decision on the merits, by stating what bearing the supposed error or defect had on the merits of the case.

If the grounds of special appeal are not so drawn, I think the special appeal should be dismissed without further consideration being accorded to the case. It must also be borne in mind that mere criticisms of the

reasoning employed by Courts below are not grounds of special appeal. The fact that a Judge's mind was influenced by circumstances which in another mind would not carry the same weight or produce the same effect, is not a matter which warrants a ground of special appeal. In the practice of an honorable profession, too much stress cannot be placed on the propriety of drawing and certifying grounds of special appeal, which are so in law, and which are at least arguable and capable of being supported by some distinct matter or circumstance in the case.

It appears to me that beyond taking up the time of the Court most unnecessarily, no possible advantage has accrued to the appellant, either from filing the special appeal, or from the arguments addressed to us. The case turned upon questions of fact properly investigated and carefully decided in the Court below, and these specious grounds of special appeal were merely put in against the interests of justice for the purpose of causing delay.

These being my views, it is unnecessary to add that the special appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Kemp, J.—I concur in dismissing the special appeal with costs.

The 5th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Review—Additional evidence.

Case No. 1316 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, dated the 18th April 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazareebaugh, dated the 15th April 1869.

Tekaet Khood Narain Singh (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Toolsee Roy and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Piffard and *Baboo Ram Chunder Mitter* for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Respondents.

In a suit for confirmation of title to a village alleged to be in the possession of plaintiff under a mokurruree pottah, the first Court found the pottah to be genuine, and gave plaintiff a decree. The Lower Appellate Court at first doubted the genuineness of the pottah and reversed that decision, but on an application for review admitted additional evidence on both sides and dismissed the appeal.

HELD that the Lower Appellate Court ought not to have allowed points to be explained away in the review-stage by admitting additional evidence thereon, though in this particular case injustice was not done.

Kemp, J.—THE plaintiffs in this case, the special respondents before us, sued alleging that they and their ancestors were in possession of the village in dispute under a mokurruree pottah dated Magh 1244, executed by the great grandfather of the defendant. It appears that, the plaintiffs having sued certain ryots under Act X. of 1859, the defendant, special appellant, intervened, and the Deputy Collector, instead of trying under that Section the question of actual receipt and enjoyment of the rent, went into the title of the plaintiff in that case, and finding, for reasons stated in his decision, that the mokurruree of the plaintiffs was not proved, dismissed the plaintiff's suit. The consequence was that the plaintiffs were obliged to bring this suit in the Civil Court. The defendant denied the mokurruree set up by the plaintiffs, admitting at the same time that the village was in the possession of the plaintiffs under a pottah given by the defendant's ancestor in payment of a certain debt, and subsequently the village was mortgaged to the plaintiffs under a bhurnanamah; that, according to the terms of the bhurnanamah, the plaintiffs remained in possession up to the year 1273 Fuslee; and that in 1272 Fuslee the defendant took possession of the village in dispute.

In the first Court, the Deputy Commissioner of Hazareebaugh, in a very carefully considered judgment, found that the defendant had made no effort whatever to produce the deed of bhurnanamah; that he had attempted to prove it by secondary evidence which the first Court, for reasons given in great detail in the judgment, would not believe. The first Court then observes upon the facts, that the plaintiffs were admittedly in possession before the bhurnanamah deed, and that the defendant had it in his power to show, if such was the case, that that possession of the plaintiffs was under a terminable lease, by producing the plaintiff's kubooleut which he failed to do; that, on the contrary, the plaintiffs had produced their deed of mokurruree which was 30 years old, and had been followed admittedly by possession;

and on the whole case he was of opinion that the deed produced by the plaintiffs was genuine.

On appeal to the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, he, on the first instance, was of opinion "that the execution of the mo-"kurruree pottah had been proved to a certain "extent, but that, looking at the case alto-"gether, and taking into consideration the "absence of all corroborative proof," he considered that the proof of execution was not sufficiently liable as to warrant a decree in the plaintiffs' favor. He, therefore, reversed the decision of the first Court.

There was then an application on the part of the plaintiffs for a review of judgment, which review was admitted, and certain documents were put in, namely, certain farkhutees, as corroborative of the pottah. Both parties also adduced evidence, witnesses were examined, and the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, on grounds stated in his decision, considered that his former decree should be reversed, and that the appeal of the defendant must be dismissed. He has gone fully into the case, and has given his reasons for admitting the additional evidence.

The learned Counsel for the special appellant has asked the Court to treat this case as a regular appeal. His main objection is that he has been deprived of the decision of two Courts upon that portion of the evidence which has been adduced for the first time in the review-stage in the Appellate Court, and he objects that the Judicial Commissioner has allowed points to be explained away in review. He also candidly admits that, treating this as a special appeal, he is not able to say that there is no evidence in support of the farkhutees, although, in his opinion, that evidence is not sufficient.

On the first objection, we think that a sufficient answer may be given in this way: that the first Court having found the mokurruree to be a genuine one without the assistance of these farkhutees, the special appellant cannot say that he has been deprived of any advantage, or has been unjustly treated by the first Court not considering these farkhutees.

On the second point, we think that it may be said that the Officiating Commissioner was wrong in allowing points to be explained away in the review-stage, but at the same time we think that no injustice has been done to the special appellant in this particular case. It appears that the review was applied for in January, and was not disposed of till April. There was, therefore, ample time for the special appellant to object to this proceeding; he has, however, not done so, and, on the contrary, has himself adduced evidence on review. Both parties well knew what points were to be decided and adduced evidence on those points.

Being, therefore, of opinion that no injustice has been done to the special appellant by the procedure adopted on review by the Lower Appellate Court, I do not think it right to treat this case as a regular appeal and treating it as a special appeal, there can be no doubt, as admitted by the learned Counsel for the special appellant, that the judgment of the Lower Court is unassailable. The appeal is, therefore, dismissed with costs.

Paul, J.—I think it necessary in this case to add a few remarks to the judgment already given, and in which I fully concur. The real point in issue between the parties was whether the mokurruree pottah produced by the plaintiffs in the first Court was genuine or not. The first Court, after having given the case a very full consideration, came to the conclusion that the mokurruree pottah was genuine. That decision was reversed in appeal, principally upon the ground that the genuineness of the mokurruree pottah should have been exhaustively proved, by showing that possession had been held under it, by the production of the receipts and farkhutees for the various years during which the pottah was held; and inasmuch as these farkhutees were not produced, the Court was of opinion that the genuineness of the mokurruree pottah was not established to its satisfaction. It appears that in this case the fact of the existence of these farkhutees was a matter well known to the defendant, both from the circumstance of their having been filed in the Act X. proceedings, and from the petition filed by the defendant himself, in which he sought to have these very farkhutees introduced into this case with the file of the Act X. case. The circumstance of their existence having thus been brought to the notice of the judge, one would have thought that, as his doubts as to the genuineness of the mokurruree pottah on the ground of the non-production of the farkhutees could have been instantly removed by sending for the record

which they were filed and trying an issue to their genuineness, the Judge would ve adopted this course of proceeding be- e pronouncing judgment. It appears, wever, that the Judge preferred deciding case without removing the doubts he tertained, as he might have done by a ry simple enquiry and investigation.

The error into which he thus fell, the rty against whom the decree was passed ideavoured to rectify by an application for view. That application was admitted, d the case was ordered to be heard two onths after the admission of the applica- n for review. At the hearing on review, th parties came prepared with their evi- nce upon the principal issue then before e Appellate Court, namely, whether these rkhutees were genuine or not, and upon s issue additional evidence was adduced both sides. The additional evidence duced by the plaintiff satisfied the Court at these farkhutees were genuine; and ying principally upon their genuineness, e Judicial Commissioner reversed his for- r decision. If the matter of complaint t forward by the special appellant merely nsisted of the particulars I have men- ned, hardly any objection could be raised the decision of the Court below; but fortunately various other matters, which ppear not altogether relevant to the case, ere introduced into the judgment of the ower Appellate Court, and other points, hich the Judicial Commissioner had at st thought went far to negative the genuine- ss of the mokurruree pottah, were further llowed to be explained by fresh evidence, d these circumstances have given rise to e just complaint of Mr. Piffard which he s very ably put forward—that it would e highly dangerous to allow parties on view to explain away such parts of a dgment as are obnoxious to them by the oduction of fresh evidence. In this re- ark, I believe, every one here fully concurs; t inasmuch as it appears that these far- tees did exist to the knowledge of the endant, and it was simply an omission to have gone into the question whether y were genuine or not, I do not think t any injustice has been committed in estigating and adjudicating upon their uineness, and in fact I consider injustice uld have been committed if such investi- tion had not taken place. Therefore, hile admitting the correctness of the neral remarks made by Mr. Piffard as to the impropriety of allowing parties the liberty to prop up a failing case by the production of additional evidence in the appeal or review-stage, the present case is, I think, clearly distinguishable. In this particular case, the Judicial Commissioner was perfectly right in satisfying his conscience in the way he has done on a matter as regards which he was admittedly not satisfied, and in making the enquiry which he has made for the purpose of removing the doubts which he at first entertained, and which, on being removed, enabled him to give judgment in favour of the plaintiffs. This being so, there is no reason why this case should be heard as a regular appeal; and as it is admitted that, in special appeal, the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is impregnable, this special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The 6th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Act VIII. of 1835—Sale of tenure—Incumbrances.

Case No. 1382 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 22nd April 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 25th August 1869.

Meer Jaseemooddeen (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Shaikh Munsoor Ali and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Respondents.

A sale under Act VIII. of 1835 does not convey a tenure free from all incumbrances, unless there was a stipulation in the documents by which the tenure was created providing for its sale for arrears of rent.

Mookerjee, J.—THE plaintiff brought this suit for possession of a certain piece of land, on the ground that it is covered by his *howladaree* pottah dated 1267; that the land is situated in talook Mojid Mali, which has been sold under the provisions of

Act VIII. of 1835, and purchased by the defendants who have dispossessed him from this *howla*.

The defendants, among other pleas, contended that this pottah was a false and fabricated document, and that the plaintiff's claim was a false one; that, the sale having been held under Act VIII. of 1835, they acquired the talook free from all incumbrances, and that, therefore, the plaintiff has no right to recover possession of this land.

The first Court gave a decree to the plaintiff, finding that the pottah produced by him was genuine, that it was registered, that possession was held under that pottah, and that, the defendants having dispossessed him, the plaintiff was entitled to recover.

On appeal, the Judge, after having required the appellant, defendant, to produce the pottah constituting the original tenure which had been sold, takes up the case on another day and says: "The original *talookee* "*pottah* of 1856 has been filed. It con- "tains no clause the effect of which would "be to render such tenures as might be "created by *howladaree pottahs*, such as "that relied on by the plaintiff, superior to "the result of a sale of the talook for its "own arrears." And he considers that the sale under Act VIII. of 1835 has cancelled the pottah, because it was a sale of the tenure for its own arrears.

We find, however, that the original *talookee pottah* has not been filed.

It has been contended on special appeal before us that the sale of this tenure under Act VIII. of 1835 did not, under the Full Bench Ruling of this Court reported in 7 Weekly Reporter, page 260, confer upon the purchaser any right to hold the tenure free from all incumbrances imposed upon it by the former holder; and that, therefore, it has not the effect of rendering inoperative the pottah created by the defaulting talookdar, but that the purchaser is only entitled to rent.

We find this contention to be good. The sale under Act VIII. of 1835 does not convey to the purchaser the tenure free from all incumbrances, "unless there was a sti- "pulation in the documents by which the "tenure was created providing for the sale "of such tenure for arrears of rent." The pottah of the tenure sold has not been filed in this case, nor is there any contention that the documents contain the stipulatio referred to above. The only plea raised the defendant was that the *howladar pottah* set up by the plaintiff was fal The *howla pottah* of the plaintiff, the fore, if proved to be genuine, would fall by the operation of the sale under t Act. The Judge, being of opinion that t mere fact of the sale gets rid of the tenu considers "that the question of the ge "ineness of the pottah in question ne "not be gone into." As we are of opini that the view taken by the Judge of law is not correct, the case must go back him for an adjudication upon the questi of the pottah. The Judge should enqu into the genuineness or otherwise of pottah, and decide the case according to result of that enquiry. We, therefore, mand the case to the Judge for a decisi on the merits with reference to the abo remarks.

Costs to follow the final result.

The 6th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Parties—Benamee purchases—Beneficial ownership.

Case No. 1130 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Subordinate Judge of Tipperah, dat the 21st March 1870, reversing a decisi of the Moonsiff of Soodharam, dated t 31st May 1869.

Akbur Ali (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mahomed Faiz Buksh and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. J. S. Rochfort for Appellant.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Respondents.

In a suit by a father against a son to recover the title-deeds of certain property alleged to have been purchased by the plaintiff in the name of the defendant when the latter was about 2 or 3 years old, which title-deeds were said to be fraudulently retained by the son, the defendant did not appear, but two other persons who alleged that they were mortgagees from the son were made parties.

b

HELD that these parties should not have been allowed to appear as defendants, simply on the allegation that they had lent money to the son on the security of the property.

In cases of benamee purchase in India, the criterion of beneficial ownership is the source from which the purchase-money is derived.

Mookerjee, J.—THE present suit was instituted by one Akbar Ali originally against his own son, defendant, Mahomed Faiz, to have it declared that the property in dispute belongs to him, and not to the defendant Faiz. Plaintiff states that he purchased the property so far back as 1253, B. S., with his own money in the name of the defendant, his son, when that son was 2 or 3 years old; that he remained all along in possession, but that, having occasion to go to Mecca in Pous 1273, he left the title-deeds of the property with the defendant, and entrusted him with the management of his affairs; that the defendant, taking advantage of his absence, has assumed the ownership of the property, and refused to give him back the deeds when the plaintiff asked him so to do on his return from the pilgrimage; that this son had, moreover, sued some ryots on this property for rent in his own name, and that, when the plaintiff intervened, his intervention was disallowed on the objection of the defendant, who got a decree for rent on the 7th February 1868. Plaintiff, therefore, sues for the confirmation of his right to the property.

Mahomed Faiz, the son, does not appear, but two persons of the name of Muddun and Vyrub appeared as third parties, stating that they are mortgagees of the property from the son who, they contended, was the real and beneficial owner of the property. They further alleged that the father and the son have collusively instituted this suit to obtain the required declaration in order to defraud them, the creditors of the latter; and, lastly, they prayed that they may be made parties to this suit under Section 73 of the Civil Procedure Code.

The Court of first instance thereupon made them parties, and in their presence, holding on the evidence that the plaintiff has satisfactorily proved his case, gave a decree to the plaintiff.

Against this decree, there was no appeal on the part of Mahomed Faiz, but the defendants Muddun Mohun and Vyrub Chunder only appealed.

The Subordinate Judge remanded the case for fresh investigation, laying down several issues for the determination of the Court below.

The Moonsiff has again decided the case in favor of the plaintiff. The Subordinate Judge having reversed his decision, the plaintiff has preferred this special appeal.

It is contended before us for the appellant that Muddun Mohun and Vyrub have been unnecessarily made defendants in the cause; that they have no share or interest in the subject-matter of the suit, and are not likely to be affected by the result thereof; that the interest they themselves allege they have in the property is of such a remote and contingent nature that possibly they may have nothing to do with the property in dispute.

We find that these added defendants are not parties in possession of the property; that they are allowed to appear as defendants simply on an allegation that they have lent money to the son on the security of the property, and may have to fall upon it in case they succeed in obtaining a decree on the bond executed in their favor, and in the event of that decree not being satisfied by their debtor. This assuredly is a very remote interest in the subject-matter of the suit. We do not think, therefore, that the Court of first instance has exercised a sound discretion in allowing such parties to be added as defendants in the cause, and thereby complicate the proceedings in this suit; but as the trial in both the Courts has proceeded in the presence of these parties as the only defendants contesting the claim of the plaintiff, and evidence gone through at great length, we do not think it proper at this stage of the case to quash the whole of the proceedings had in the Courts below.

On the merits of the case, however, we are not at all satisfied with the decision of the Subordinate Judge. He states in his judgment that the "plaintiff, during the "minority of the son, might have bought the "property for his son, or he might have "bought it for himself in his son's name;" but the contention raised before him by the mortgagee defendants was, that Mahomed Faiz, the son, got this property from his own sister by a hibbanamah, and that no money was paid by the father or anybody. If the Subordinate Judge was of opinion, and there is ample evidence in the record including the testimony of the vendor's husband to support such a conclusion, that money was actually paid by the plaintiff, and that the property was purchased by him

from his daughter on payment of a consideration, we cannot understand why this issue should not be decided in favor of the plaintiff.

The Subordinate Judge likewise remarks that "this point can be best explained by "the kobala or hibba through which the "property was transferred by Mymoona "Bibee. This document is not forthcoming." Now, the plaintiff distinctly alleged that, at the time of his going to Mecca, he made over all the title-deeds of the property to his son, and had actually prayed that the defendants might be called on to produce the documents in Court. This allegation, as far as we have seen, was never traversed by the defendants, and it is no part of their case that plaintiff holds that document in his possession. If the defendants have not chosen to produce that deed in Court, although basing the title of their mortgagor on it, the plaintiff is not to suffer, but was in a position to adduce evidence to show that it was, in fact, a bill of sale executed in his favor for a valuable consideration.

In another part of the Subordinate Judge's judgment occurs the following passage: "Now, for 24 years the land was in the son's name, and it was in his possession likewise for years together after he attained his majority, and the plaintiff, that is, the father, never made any attempt to convince the money-lenders and neighbours that he was the actual owner of the property. He stood by and saw the public deceived by his son, and therefore he cannot, after nearly 24 years, say that the property does not belong to his son." Now, the Subordinate Judge does not find when the son attained his majority, and from what year the son assumed the management of this property on his own account. We find on reference to the record that it is almost an admitted fact that in 1253, when the property was acquired, the son Mahomed Faiz was 2 or 3 years of age; he must, therefore, have been a major not until 1268 or 1269. The father went to Mecca in 1273, and the mortgage is dated 1274.

The first Court has distinctly found that the father has all along been in possession of this land from the date of the purchase. If the Subordinate Judge was of a different opinion as to this point of possession, it was incumbent on him to find when that possession commenced and the nature of such possession; for assuredly during the son's minority the plaintiff was in possession, and it remained to be seen when the possession of the father ceased, and that of the son began. Moreover, we do not clearly understand what the Subordinate Judge means by the remark that "the father never made any attempt to convince the money-lenders, &c., that he was the actual owner of the property." The Subordinate Judge could not have been unaware that benamee purchases in the names of children are always made in India, and are in conformity to the general usage and custom of the country prevailing among Hindoos as well as Mahomedans. The criterion in cases of benamee purchases in India is, as held by the Lords of the Privy Council in Gossain *versus* Gossain, in 4 Moore's Indian Appeals,* to see from what source the money required for the purchase came. If a father has thought fit, following the custom of the country, to make such a purchase in the name of his infant son, we do not know what measures, if any, he is to resort to, to convince money-lenders that he, the father, was the owner of the property. The presumption in these cases, especially where the son was an infant of 2 or 3 years of age at the time of the purchase, and there is no suggestion that he had any separate funds of his own, is always in favor of the father; and it is on the defendant to rebut that presumption, and show, according to his allegation in this case, that the acquisition of the property was not by purchase, but by a gift to the defendant Faiz by his sister Mymoona Bibee, and therefore an acquisition of the son.

As regards the last remark of the Subordinate Judge that "the plaintiff stood by and saw the public deceived by his son," the pleader for the respondent admitted before us that there is no evidence in the record to support such a finding. We also find, on a reference to the evidence in the case, that not only is that finding wholly unsupported by evidence, but the contrary appears to be the case, namely, that the mortgages to the defendants were executed at a time the plaintiff was absent on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

We are, therefore, of opinion that the decision of the Subordinate Judge ought to be reversed, and the case sent back to him to pass a fresh decision, keeping in view the law and tests by which cases of this nature are to be governed, and with reference to the remarks made above. Costs to abide the final result.

Jackson, J.—I quite concur.

* 4 W. R., P. C., p. 46.

The 6th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Benamee transactions—Bona fides—Evidence.

Case No. 265 of 1870.

Regular Appeal, being Appeals Nos. 673 and 674 of 1869 of the Court of the Additional Subordinate Judge of Dacca, dated the 31st March 1871, against the decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 27th August 1869, transferred to this Court for determination after the remand of the case on the 13th December 1870, upon the hearing of the Special Appeal No. 1236 of 1870.

Bhoobun Chunder Burral and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Sreemuttee Nagoree Dassia (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Luteet Chunder Sein* for Appellants.

Baboos Gopal Lall Mitter and *Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty* for Respondent.

Registration of a deed does not affect the question of *bona fides*, nor is a conveyance to be considered *bonâ fide*, simply because there is proof of its execution, and some statement that money was on the occasion actually paid by the vendee into the hands of the vendor in the presence of witnesses unacquainted with the circumstances of the parties and the relation they bear to each other; but in coming to a conclusion, the circumstances and probabilities are to be carefully considered and weighed, *e. g.*, the object for the purchase, whether the purchase-money really belonged to the purchasers, and whether possession was taken after purchase, and, if not, why possession was not taken.

Mookerjee, J.—THE present suit is instituted by the plaintiff, Nagoree, widow of one Nemy Churn, to have it declared that the property attached by her in execution of her decree is the property of her judgment-debtors; that the sales were fictitious and nominal; and that the judgment-debtors are still the parties beneficially interested in it, and are still in possession of it. The defence raised by the purchasers, defendants, are that the purchases were *bonâ fide*, and that they are in possession of the shares purchased by them.

It appears that Nemy Churn, the proprietor of this property, had two wives; by one wife he had 4 sons, Bindabun, Radhanath, Judoonath and Juggernath, and the other wife is the respondent. Radhanath and Judoonath have both died leaving Oma Tara and Russomonjoree as their widows.

On the 13th of June 1855, the plaintiff obtained a decree for maintenance against the sons of her co-wife, who denied she was entitled to any, on various grounds—unchastity and the like. It does not appear whether this decree is still satisfied or not, but the plaintiff was obliged again to sue the defendant for maintenance in 1868, when she obtained a fresh decree on the 15th August 1868.

The present suit arises from the proceedings had in execution of this last decree. When the plaintiff executed this decree, the purchasers, defendants, set up the plea under Section 246 to the effect that the property belongs to them, and cannot be sold for the debt of their vendors. The defendant Bhoobun Burral set up a purchase from his cousin Juggernath of his 4-annas share in the family dwelling-house. The defendant Heera Lall, the brother of Oma Tara, pleaded that he purchased the share of his sister and that of his brother-in-law Bindabun for 200 rupees each, though in different years. Lastly, the defendant Madhub, who is the father-in-law of Juggernath, states that one Gungabishen Dass held a decree against the said Juggernath and Russomonjoree, the widow of his brother Judoonath; that Gungabishen sold this decree to him; that in execution of that decree, he, Madhub, purchased the share of Judoonath in 1864, and had since been in possession of the same.

The plaintiff has examined several witnesses, relatives and next-door neighbours of the parties, who depose to the effect that the sales are collusive and benamee, made in the name of near relations of each of the judgment-debtors; that the judgment-debtors are still in possession of their respective shares as before; that the decree having been fraudulently obtained by Gungabishen, the brother-in-law of Juggernath, on the confession of Juggernath, and *ex parte* as against Russomonjoree, he, Gungabishen, sold the same to Juggernath's father-in-law, the defendant Madhub Chunder, who executed the same and became himself the purchaser at the sale; that this purchaser never took possession, but that the four shareholders are in the beneficial enjoyment of the property on their own account,

and that all these transactions are fraudulent and collusive. The first Court, believing the statement of these witnesses, and finding that the original judgment-debtors are still in possession of their shares in the dwelling-house, and disbelieving the story set up by one of the purchasers that he was in possession by receipt of rent from his relative as per a kubooleut executed in his favor, gave a decree in favor of plaintiff.

In appeal it is contended before us by the defendants, private purchasers from the judgment-debtors, that they have proved their purchase of the property in question by their witnesses; that the witnesses prove that consideration actually passed; and that, although the judgment-debtors are all allowed to remain in possession of the house, they are allowed so to remain as they are near relatives whom persons, especially Hindoos, would not be disposed to evict.

We find on referring to the record that the purchasers are all near relatives of the judgment-debtors; that each of them has purchased an undivided share of 4 annas belonging to his own relative in this family-house for a sum of 200 rupees; that none of them has ever been in possession of the shares purchased, though the purchases were made so far back as 1862, 1863, and 1864; that though two kubooleuts are produced to show that the judgment-debtors were allowed to remain in possession as tenants, and therefore that the object of the purchase was to get a fair return of the outlay in the shape of rent, yet no rent has ever been demanded, much less paid. The other two purchasers give no reason why they purchased undivided shares of a family dwelling-house, and why, notwithstanding their purchase, no possession has been ever attempted to be taken.

The auction-purchaser, Madhub Chunder, examines no witnesses and gives no proof of the *bona fides* of his purchase. He is admittedly the father-in-law of the judgment-debtor, Juggernath, and though he purchased the decree from the brother-in-law of the said Juggernath, who was the original holder of it for value, and though he took the trouble and incurred the expense of executing that decree against his own son-in-law, and purchasing in execution in 1864 the right and title of Russomonjoree, Juggernath's share as alleged having been sold by him to Bhoobun before, yet we find that he does neither take actual possession, nor seek to derive any benefit from his purchase. This Russomonjoree is no friend of Madhub, and there is, therefore, an utter absence of any explanation for forbearance except in the theory propounded by the plaintiff, that all these transactions of decree, purchase and sale having been made by and with the money of Juggernath, he, Juggernath, remained in the beneficial enjoyment and possession of the same as before, under the new title acquired in the name of Madhub Chunder.

It is next contended by the pleaders on behalf of the appellant that there is no proof on the part of the plaintiff that the money was the money of the judgment-debtors; but there is proof that the bills of sale were executed and registered, and the witnesses speak of considerations having actually passed. The Lower Court who examined the witnesses disbelieved their testimony for reasons which appear to us to be correct and proper. Many of these witnesses are unacquainted with the relationship between the vendor and the vendee and appear from their own statement to be wholly ignorant as to who is in possession of the premises after the sale. Others are near relatives and dependants of the vendors who state that the purchasers are in possession by receipt of rent from the judgment-debtors having taken kubooleuts from them. The pleader for the appellant, however, did not think it proper to make any allusion to rent having been either paid by, or intended to be received from, the judgment-debtors, the argument being confined to the simple fact that, being relatives, the purchaser could neither evict them nor demand rent. We find, however, that beyond the two kubooleuts from two of the judgment-debtors, there is not a particle of evidence to show that any rent has ever been demanded, much less received.

Registration of the deeds does not affect the question of *bona fides*, for even in undoubted cases of fraudulent and colorable transactions, parties would resort to registration for the object of creating a belief that the transactions are honest and above board. A conveyance is not to be considered a *bonâ-fide* one, simply because there is proof of the execution of the deed, and some statement that money was on the occasion actually paid by the vendee into the hands of the vendor in the presence of witnesses, who are unacquainted with the circumstances of the parties and the relation they bear to each other; but in coming to a conclusion as to whether a purchase is honest and

bona fide, the circumstances and probabilities are to be carefully considered and weighed. It should be seen what could have been the object for the purchase by the vendees, whether the purchase-money really belonged to the purchasers, or was the money of the vendors themselves paid into the purchaser's hands to be repaid to the vendor before the attesting witnesses—whether possession was taken by the purchasers after the purchase, or what explanation, if any, is given for not taking possession of properties for which it is alleged valuable consideration has been paid. Here, in this case, besides the near relationship of the parties, the absence of any satisfactory explanation as to why possession was not taken, notwithstanding that the purchases were made 6 or 7 years ago, the purchaser buying an undivided one-fourth share, the exact share of each of their own relatives who are proved to have been in debt at the time there are many other badges of fraud which throw the greatest suspicion on the *bona fides* of the purchases made by the defendant. No evidence has been adduced to show that the money belonged to the purchasers; that they had any object in the purchases; that any of them got actual possession or ever demanded rent or received it; the purchasers themselves do not come forward to speak to the honesty of their purchase: they merely content themselves by examining some witnesses who are either strangers to the family, and had been only called on to witness the execution of the deed or are dependants of the vendors, who speak in such a vague and general way as to the passing of the consideration that we are unable to place any credence on their testimony. On the whole circumstances of this case, we come to the conclusion that the purchases are not true and honest; that the consideration-money which the witnesses speak of, if ever it passed, belonged to the vendors themselves; and that the judgment-debtors are the parties beneficially interested in the purchase ostensibly made in the names of their relatives. We, therefore, uphold the decision of the first Court, and dismiss the appeal with all costs.

Jackson, J.—I also think that the appeal should be dismissed on the grounds stated by my learned colleague.

The 6th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Sale for arrears of rent—Notice—Jurisdiction—Section 13, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865.

Case No. 1365 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, dated the 19th April 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Satkaniah, dated the 17th November 1869.

Nugendro Chunder Ghose and another (two of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Musruff Bibee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Appellants.

Baboo Banee Madhub Dutt for Respondent.

The fact of no notice having been served in the mofussil is sufficient ground for setting aside a sale for arrears of rent.

An appeal to the Collector is not necessary as a condition precedent to a suit in the Civil Court under Section 13, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865.

Mookerjee, J.—THE point urged in this special appeal is that the Judge was wrong in not trying the question whether the rent had been paid by the plaintiff as alleged by him, and that no suit lies in the Civil Court under Section 13, Act VIII. of 1865, B. C., when there was no appeal to the Collector on the ground of irregularity.

As regards the first point, we find that there were two objections raised by the plaintiff before the Courts below; first, that no notice had been published, as required by

law, in the mofussil; and, secondly, that he paid rent for the period for the arrears of which the sale had taken place. If, as the Judge finds, there is reason to believe that no notice had been issued in the mofussil, that ground was of itself sufficient to set aside the sale.

As regards the question under Section 13, Act VIII. of 1865, B. C., we find that the law does not lay down that the plaintiff must appeal to the Collector, and that this step by the plaintiff is a condition precedent to his having recourse to the Civil Court for his redress. An appeal has been provided by law in order that parties injured may resort to it for invalidating the sale; but it certainly does not say that the parties cannot come to the Civil Court to set aside the sale, unless there was previously an appeal to the Revenue Authorities. We think the Judge is right in setting aside the sale, as having been held without any service of notice in the mofussil as required by law, and we see no reason to interfere with his decision.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 6th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Objections—Section 348, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 1588 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 20th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Serampore, dated the 30th March 1870.

Thakoor Dass Goshamee and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Gopee Kristo Goshamee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Bama Churn Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboos Obhoy Churn Bose and *Mohendro Lall Mitter* for Respondent.

Objections under Section 348, Act VIII. of 1859, may be urged at any time in the course of hearing of an appeal.

Mitter, J.—We think that the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in refusing to entertain the objections urged by the special appellants under the provisions of Section 348. The law says that such objections can be urged at any time in the course of the hearing, and the special appellants were, therefore, entitled to bring them forward before the case was closed on their side.

We, therefore, remand this case to the Lower Appellate Court to try it *de novo*, after hearing all the objections urged by the special appellants under Section 348.

The costs will abide the ultimate result.

The 6th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Zemindar—Ijardar.

Case No. 1372 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Mymensingh, dated the 25th April 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 30th December 1869.

Mussamut Gobind Monee and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Rajendro Kishore Chowdhry and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Sreenath Banerjee for Appellants.

Baboos Sreenath Dass and *Bhugobutty Churn Ghose* for Respondents.

A suit on the ground of illegal ejectment effected by the zemindar or by a servant acting under him cannot be brought under Act X. of 1859, when the defendant is the ijardar entitled to the rents.

Jackson, J.—We think this case must be remanded to the Judge for re-trial. The plaintiff, alleging himself to be a tenant of a certain plot of land, has brought this suit against the defendant, who, the plaintiff alleges, is the ijardar of the village, and is entitled to receive rent for the land, and who has illegally ejected him from his jote.

The first Court, *viz.*, the Deputy Collector, after investigation on the spot, has decided that the defendant was the ijardar of the

village, and that he had dispossessed the plaintiff from this piece of land. The Judge, on appeal, refers the plaintiff to a civil suit, and holds that the Revenue Court has no jurisdiction. He says that "the alleged act of dispossession is not stated to have been done, either by the order of the zemindar or of a servant acting under him." This is very true: if it had been done by the zemindar or by a servant acting under him, the case could not have come under Act X. of 1859, while the defendant was the ijaradar entitled to the rents.

The Judge goes on to say: "Moreover, the defendant in his written statement does not seem to claim any right as a farmer, but alleges that he received the small portion of ground in dispute from the zemindar's gomashta as a ryot.

"Under the circumstances of the case, it seems to me that the plaintiff had no *locus standi* against the defendant in the Revenue Court, and that his proper course would have been to sue the defendant as a trespasser in the Civil Court."

The Judge cannot decide this case upon the mere allegation of the defendant. It may be that the defendant denies that, at the time he dispossessed the plaintiff, he was the ijaradar, but then this comes to be a question for decision; the plaintiff states that the defendant was the ijaradar, and the defendant states that he was not; and until this point is decided, the case cannot be thrown out of the Revenue Court. It may be that upon the trial the plaintiff will be able to prove that the defendant was at the time the ijaradar. If so, the suit was very properly brought in the Revenue Court.

The Judge has not in any way decided any single fact connected with the case. The Judge must go into the facts of the case, and apply the law to the facts he finds.

Costs will abide the final result of the case.

The 6th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Benamee sale—Bona fides.

Case No. 1605 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 5th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Kytee, dated the 26th November 1869.

Shaikh Golam Russool (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Shaikh Abdool Ruheem and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Respondents.

Where property is bought from a wife as the ostensible owner, the husband consenting to the sale and the transaction is *bonâ fide* on the part of the purchaser for a consideration, the purchase is a good one, even if the property is not the wife's, but the husband's.

Glover, J.—The facts of this case are to be found in the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court in special appeal No. 1562. In this case, the plaintiff bought a one-third share of a certain tank ostensibly owned by Izzutunnissa, the name of Irshad Ali, her husband, being added to the deed of sale as one of the subscribing witnesses. A party who had a decree against the husband took out execution, and attached this one-third share of the tank. The plaintiff then made a claim under his purchase, but his objections were rejected, and therefore he brings this suit to establish his right in the property. The Judge has decided the case in connection with the case above mentioned, simply on the ground that the "hibbah-bel-ewuz" granted by the husband to the wife was a collusive transaction in fraud of creditors. But he has not gone into the question as to whether the plaintiff in this suit bought the property from the wife with the consent of the husband in good faith and without collusion. If he bought

from the ostensible owner Izzutunnissa, if the husband consented to the sale, and if the transaction was *bonâ fide* on the part of the plaintiff for consideration, the purchase would be a good one, even if the property were not the wife's, but the husband's, and would not depend, as the Subordinate Judge has supposed, upon the validity or otherwise of the hibbah-bel-ewuz.

The case must, therefore, be remanded for a fresh trial. Costs to follow the result.

The 9th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Rent-suit by sharer—Pleas.

Case No. 1442 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Nuddea, dated the 20th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 31st March 1869.

Brijo Lall Roy (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Shama Churn Bhutt and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter, Grish Chunder Mookerjee, and *Rash Beharee Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Motee Lall Mookerjee* for Respondents.

In a suit by a dur-putneedar for rents for a portion of an estate, where the defendant abandoned in the first Court the plea that plaintiff could not sue separately from his co-sharer:

HELD that the plea could not be entertained in the Lower Appellate Court.

Ainslie, J.—IN this suit the plaintiff claims rent of certain lands situated in four villages. It is stated that six villages were granted in putnee to one Rakhal Doss Banerjee, and that in these six villages the defendant held lands at an annual rent of Rupees 1,342.

Rakhal Doss Banerjee sub-let the villages in dur-putnee, 4 to the plaintiff and 2 to one Judoonath Chatterjee. In a written statement in a former suit, the defendant stated the amount payable on account of the last two villages, and also in this suit at the time of settling the issues, that amount, *viz.*, Rupees 293-3, was admitted before the Deputy Collector. The plaintiff claims the difference between the total rent of Rupees 1,342 and the rent of the land in those two villages.

The Deputy Collector has held that the rent payable to the plaintiff is sufficiently determined by the defendant's own admissions. He has also adjudicated on the plea of non-occupation set up by the defendant and deducting the amount paid as admitted by the plaintiff, he has given a decree for the balance, with an order for ejectment on failure to pay the amount decreed within 15 days.

The defendant appealed to the Judge, who has dismissed the suit without going into the merits, on the ground that the plaint fails to disclose a title in the plaintiff to sue separately from Judoonath Chatterjee, and says: "The grounds of the claim "are so utterly inadmissible, that, even "though the defendant has gone far to "admitting the claim (though not so far "to enable the Court to pronounce a "decision on the merits), the whole of the "costs must fall on the plaintiff."

In special appeal, it is contended that the defendant never pleaded that the lands of the six mouzahs constituted an indivisible tenure, and that there was no issue as to plaintiff's right of separate suit, and the defendant pleaded payment of a portion of the claim to the plaintiff. On the other hand, we have been referred to cases reported at page 109, Volume X, Weekly Reporter: page 30, XII. Weekly Reporter; and page 469, XIII. Weekly Reporter.

In the first case Mr. Justice Phear, while holding that a kubooleut given to a mother could not, after her death, be treated as two separate kubooleuts in favor of her two daughters for their respective shares of their mother's estate, remarks that the original contract might probably have been varied by a subsequent parol agreement so as to give each daughter a separate right of suit.

In the second case Mr. Justice Macpherson, in commenting on the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court, which held that a clear and undisputed definition of shares was sufficient to warrant separate suits, observes if the plaintiff can prove that the defendants have heretofore recognized him as being the proprietor of a particular share, and have paid him separately a certain proportion of the rent, then, no doubt, a suit will lie against them.

The third case is in no way in point.

In both the earlier cases, the defendants appear to have, from first to last, contested the plaintiff's right of suit.

But this case is clearly distinguishable from those cases.

The defendant claimed that plaintiff should specify the separate rents of all the villages with a view to showing that, owing to non-occupation of certain portions of the land in suit, he was entitled to abatement; but when the issues were framed, he did not insist on the plea that plaintiff could not sue separately from Judoonath Chatterjee. On the contrary, he appears to have admitted that the rent of his lands in the two villages held by Judoonath was Rupees 293-3, and the issues on which he went to trial were only whether he was responsible to the plaintiff for the whole of the balance. He had, on a previous occasion, made a similar statement as to the apportionment of the rents. I think it must be held that defendant in this suit went to trial on the understanding that he was the tenant of the plaintiff, separately, for the four villages which originally bore a certain rent, and that the only contention was whether he was not entitled to an abatement of that rent for reasons which in no way affected Judoonath Chatterjee, and whether he had not paid to the plaintiff the full amount due to him as dur-putneedar of the four villages.

The plea on which the Judge has dismissed the suit appears to have been designedly abandoned in the first Court, and should not have been entertained in the Lower Appellate Court.

In this view I would remand the suit for trial by the Judge on the issues laid down by the first Court.

Costs to follow the result.

Loch, J.—I concur.

The 10th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Bond—Section 8, Act XXIII. of 1861—Section 204, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 271 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 4th July 1870, modifying an order of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 18th April 1870.

Abdool Kureem and others (Sureties), *Appellants*,

versus

Abdool Huq Kazee (Decree-holder), *Respondent*.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter for Appellants.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondent.

A bond taken by the Court as security under Section 8, Act XXIII. of 1861, can be enforced under Section 204, Act VIII. of 1859.

Norman, C. J.—Shahzadah Mahomed Shumsooddeen, having been arrested under a warrant in execution of a decree for Rupees 822-8, applied for his discharge under Section 273 of Act VIII. of 1859, on the ground that he had no means of paying the debt.

Pending the enquiry which the Moonsiff considered necessary, he released the judgment-debtor on the security of Syud Abdool Kureem and Huro Pershad Bose, who, by an obligation or bond addressed to the Moonsiff, bound themselves thus: "We do "hereby stand security for the said debtor, "and covenant that, should his application "for the benefit of insolvency be refused, "and he be called upon to pay, we shall "immediately produce him; and should we "fail to produce him, we shall pay without "objection the above amount together with "costs and future interest due to the decree-"holder," &c.

This bond was dated on the 22nd of December 1868.

On the 20th of December 1869, the decree-holder prayed that the sureties might be ordered to produce the judgment-debtor, and in default that the decree be executed against them.

The Moonsiff thought that, as the security-bond had been entered into subsequent to the judgment, it was not one which could be enforced under Section 204, and refused the application for execution.

From that decision there was an appeal to the Judge.

The Judge, as we think rightly, holds that the bond, as a security taken by the Court under the 8th Section of Act XXIII. of 1861, could be enforced under the 204th Section of Act VIII. of 1859, which enacts that, "whenever a person has become liable "as security for the performance of a decree, "the decree may be executed against such "person to the extent to which he has ren-"dered himself liable in the same manner "as a decree may be enforced against a de-"fendant."

The cases referred to by the Moonsiff, 4 Bengal Law Reports, Appendix, 27,* Gujendro Narain Roy *versus* Hemanginee Dossee, and 7 Weekly Reporter 329, Ram Kishen Doss *versus* Hurkoo Sing, are distinguishable from the present. There the liability of the sureties did not arise in the course of, or out of proceedings in, the suit; but upon distinct and independent contracts made between the sureties and the creditor —in the one case, to pay the debt, if certain attached property was released; in the other, to pay if the debtors could not pay.

Here the engagement arises in the regular course of a proceeding in the cause. The sureties do not contract with the execution-creditor, but enter into an *engagement with the Court* that the debtor shall appear when called upon, or in default of such appearance that they will pay the amount mentioned in the warrant. If the debtor failed to appear when called on within the time limited in a bond given under Section 8, the sureties, as such, would become liable to pay, and we think the case would fall within the terms of Section 204. The Judge says the sureties have had an opportunity of producing the debtor, and have not taken advantage of it. He does not say when the default took place.

For ourselves we have great doubts whether the default in producing the defendant in the present case was such as to render the sureties liable under the bond.

By Section 8 the security is for the appearance of the party "at any time when called on while such inquiry is being made." We do not think that by the bond, though its language is not very clear, the sureties engaged, or can be taken to have intended to engage, for more than that. This engagement would not bind the sureties to produce the debtor at the end of an indefinite time during which, not the inquiry contemplated by Section 8, but negotiations for a settlement were going on.

We do not understand how it was that the Moonsiff did not complete the inquiry within a week or fortnight at latest from the 28th of December 1868.

It is possible that the inquiry may have been postponed from time to time at the request or by consent of the sureties, and may not really have been concluded until the time when the sureties are supposed to have committed the default. No inquiry seems to have taken place as to the cause of the delay. We cannot, therefore, say whether there may not be circumstances which have not been made to appear before us to justify the Court in holding the sureties liable.

If there was unreasonable delay, it must be considered whether the plaintiff is in any way responsible for, or consented to, the delay, and whether the sureties, or either of them, consented to the delay.

The Judge will inquire and come to a finding upon the questions—When the defendant was called upon to appear, and made default, what was the cause of the delay? and whether the inquiry under Section 8 of Act XXIII. of 1861 was still proceeding at the time when the defendant was called upon to appear.

The Judge will return his finding with the evidence to this Court.

* 13 W. R., p. 35.

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The 10th January 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Measurement—Act VI. (B. C.), 1862—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 1431 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Mymensingh, dated the 28th April 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 30th November 1869.

Goluck Kishore Acharjee (Petitioner), *Appellant,*

versus

Kesha Majhee and others (Objectors), *Respondents.*

Baboos Rash Beharee Ghose and *Umurendro Nath Chatterjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Bama Churn Banerjee* for Respondents.

Where a measurement under Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862 was completed without any objections having been made to it by the ryots while in progress, it was held that it was not competent for the Judge in appeal to set aside the proceedings on objections made subsequently.

Jackson, J.—THIS was an application by the proprietor of 1 anna and 6 gundas share of the estate called Gogra, under Section 10, Act VI. of 1862, Bengal Council, to measure the lands comprised in his estate.

It appears that, on the application being put in before the Deputy Collector on the 13th May 1869, orders were passed for the applicant to put in the Ameen's fee, and on the 26th May an Ameen was ordered to measure and prepare the rent-roll of the estate. He went to the spot in the month of June, and completed his measurement sending in his papers with a report on the 1st October 1869. Thirteen ryots out of 152 ryots who live upon the estate thereupon appeared before the Deputy Collector, and preferred several objections to the measurement, and subsequently they appealed to the Judge from the decision of the Deputy Collector. The Judge has, for reasons stated by him in his judgment, set aside the whole of the measurement-proceedings and declared them illegal, null, and void. The special appeal to this Court is against this order.

The Judge was of opinion that the Collector had been too hasty in allowing the measurement on the application of the proprietor ; that he was bound to call upon the proprietor to prove the facts upon which he grounded his application before allowing any measurement to take place ; and the Judge also seemed to consider that even the facts stated in the petition of the applicant were not sufficient grounds upon which the Collector should have allowed the measurement to take place.

We may say that we think that it would have been far better if the Collector had satisfied himself by requiring the applicant to put in some evidence of the necessity of his resorting to the special provisions of Section 10, Act VI. of 1862, B. C. We think he should have examined the agent of the proprietor, and required him to prove that he had made attempts to measure the lands, and then what had happened thereupon so as to require him to apply to the Collector. But at the same time, we are not prepared to say that in this case, as the application was admitted and the whole measurement had been carried out without any objection on the part of the ryots after the whole measurement had been completed and finished, it was right to quash the whole of the proceedings, because sufficient inquiry was not made on that point. It is quite possible that there was some inquiry, though it does not appear upon the record.

It is said here that the Judge came to the conclusion that there were no *bonâ-fide* grounds for making the application. The grounds stated in the application are very distinct, namely, that he was unable to measure the lands, that he could not ascertain who were the persons liable to pay rents in respect of the lands comprised in his estate ; he

stated that there had been numerous changes in the lands of his estate, and that, when the Ameen went to measure the lands, he could get no assistance from the ryots to carry out the measurement. If these facts were correct, it seems impossible to suppose that this application was not made *bonâ fide.* The applicant went to large expense in carrying out the measurement, the ryots made no objection to the measurement whilst it went on, and we think that, after the whole measurement has been completed, it is not competent to the Judge to throw out the case upon objections which should have been urged in proper time, if they really had any validity in them. There is the fact also that the objection to the measurement has been raised by only 13 out of 152 ryots. We think this is an important circumstance that should be taken into consideration. We doubt very much whether the Judge has any authority to set aside the proceedings generally as regards the parties who did not appeal to him.

The case must go back to the Judge in order that he may determine the question, which still remains pending, as regards the standard by which the measurement should be made, and also any other questions that were raised before him, but not determined.

The Judge has come to no distinct finding as to the question whether there was a special application for recording the rates of rent, &c. It was one of the points that was raised before the Judge, but he has not come to a distinct finding upon it. There seems, however, in the application of the petitioner to be a special application upon this particular point; the words are: "That he specially applies that the rates of rent payable by the ryots and the persons by whom they were to be payable in respect of the lands should be ascertained and recorded." Under such circumstances, if the Judge did intend to hold by what he says upon this objection that there has been no such special application, we think that he is in error, that there is a special application, and the Collector was right under those circumstances to record the rates of rent payable by the ryots and the persons by whom they were to be payable.

The decision of the Judge setting aside the whole proceedings is reversed, and the case is remanded to him for further decision upon the other points which remain to be decided.

The 10th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Partnership-accounts—Pleas.

Case No. 1593 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 25th June 1850, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Gopalpore, dated the 2nd March 1870.

Nobin Chunder Koondoo and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Sreedhur Bhuttacharjee and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Ashootosh Dhur for Appellants.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondents.

In a suit to recover money on an adjusted partnership-account between plaintiff and defendant, where the issues were framed solely on the alleged adjustment:

HELD that, as it was found that no such alleged adjustment existed, the suit was rightly dismissed.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this case sues to recover 744 rupees 6 annas on an adjusted partnership-account between him and the defendant.

Both the Courts below decided that there had been no such adjustment of accounts; and as this was the sole ground of the plaintiff's action, the suit was dismissed.

In special appeal, it is contended that, although the plaintiff may have failed to prove the settlement of accounts, he was entitled to have the general question of the defendant's indebtedness to him under a partnership between the two gone into, and to recover whatever amount might be found due to him; and in support of this contention, the special appellant's pleader has referred us to the case of Kishen Pershad *versus* Bhowanee Deen and others, reported at page 47 of the Agra High Court Reports, Volume I., Part I., in which the Full Bench of that Court laid it down that the former rulings of the late Sudder Court under which suits brought on a settlement of accounts

ad been dismissed on account of the plaint-f failing to prove the alleged settlement ere erroneous, and that there was nothing prevent the real question between the rties as to the amount due on a general ccount being gone into and decided upon e evidence on the record.

If the circumstances of this case were entical with the circumstances of the case ow before us, no doubt the ruling of the ull Bench of the Agra High Court would ave weight in influencing our decision; but e do not think that the cases are parallel. the case before the Agra Court, the mat-r of general account appears to have been irly within the scope of the plaint, and the idence given in that suit was sufficient ithout taking any fresh proof to decide the estion of general account between the rties. It appears from the referring Judge's atement of the circumstances that both ints, namely, that of general account and at of adjusted account, were raised in the aintiff's written statement; and that it was ly because the main contention between e parties was with reference to the adjust-ent that the issue was framed on that plea, d the case decided upon it. Now, in the resent case, there is no room for saying at, when the plaintiff came into Court, he t forward any other plea whatever than e one of adjusted accounts; and there is no vidence on the record which would go to ow that he had any intention of proving ything else than the adjustment of ac-unts under which he was to receive the lf of 1,488 rupees 13 annas. Moreover, hen he appealed to the Judge, the plaintiff ntented himself with denying the fact at the case was brought on an adjustment accounts; and he never brought forward e plea that, notwithstanding that he failed prove the adjustment, he was still entitled call upon the defendant for an account.

It is contended in the second place that, as e defendant admitted assets to the amount 1,147 rupees as divisible between the part-ers, that admission is sufficient to entitle the aintiff to an account. But if we are right saying that, having failed in proving the djustment, the plaintiff is not entitled to go to the question of general account with is late partner, it is immaterial whether at partner admitted or denied that he had ny assets in his hands for the purposes of the present suit. If the plaintiff has to bring a fresh suit, he has only himself to blame for it y the way in which he has brought his case.

We dismiss the special appeal with costs.

Kemp, J.—I wish to add a few words to this judgment in which I concur. It is very clear that the plaint in this case was on the footing that a fixed sum was due from the plaintiff on an adjustment of accounts on a specified date, and the plaintiff gives as the date of his cause of action the date on which this alleged adjustment of accounts was made. It is also clear that both p rties went to trial in the first Court on the issue whether an adjustment of accounts had been made or not. It was found in the first Court against the plaintiff that the adjustment had not been proved, and that his accounts were false. I find further that, when the case went before the Subordinate Judge in appeal, issues were distinctly raised, and the same issue which had been raised and tried between the parties in the first Court was fixed and tried in the Appellate Court, namely, whether an adjustment of accounts took place between the plaintiff and defendant, and whether it was found then that a balance in cash of Rupees 1,488-13-15 of the capital of the trade remained in the hands of the defendant Sreedhur Bhuttacharjee. Therefore the plaintiff, not only in the first Court, but also in the second Court, went to trial upon the same issue, namely, whether there had been an adjustment of accounts or not.

In the Agra case to which our attention has been called, it is stated in the referring order that the plaintiff had been questioned on the framing of the issues, and rested his claim *mainly* on the adjustment of accounts —but not solely as in this case; and in that case, the plaintiff having failed to prove the adjustment on which he mainly, but not solely, relied, the Full Bench of the Agra High Court held that, if there was evidence on the record to decide the alternative plea, the Court was bound to do so, namely, that, if the plaintiff failed to prove that there had been an adjustment of accounts, he was still entitled to have the case tried as a case for adjustment of accounts. But in the present case this element wholly fails, for the plaintiff in both Courts has allowed the issues to be framed, not *mainly* on the alleged adjustment of accounts, but *solely* on that alleged adjustment. Therefore, in my opinion, the ruling of the Full Bench of the Agra High Court does not apply to this case.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 11th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Cross-appeals—Section 348, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 1418 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, dated the 2nd March 1870, modifying a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 6th November 1869.

Anwar Jan Bibee (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Azmut Ali (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty for Respondent.

In a suit to recover possession of certain land against *A*, who claimed to be its proprietor, in which *J. B.*, who claimed to be a ryot, was made co-defendant, plaintiff obtained a decree against the former, but his suit, as against the latter, was dismissed. *A* appealed from the decree, and during the course of the appeal the plaintiff was allowed to take a cross-appeal with regard to the dismissal of his suit against *J. B.*

HELD that the cross-appeal should not have been admitted.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff, respondent in this appeal, preferred this suit to recover possession of certain lands from one Anwar Ali, and he made co-defendant with Anwar Ali one Anwar Jan Bibee, the special appellant, who, he alleged, was colluding with Anwar Ali, and setting up a false title as ryot on the disputed land.

The first Court decreed the plaintiff's suit as against Anwar Ali, but dismissed it as against Anwar Jan Bibee, being of opinion that she had given satisfactory proof that she had long been the ryot in occupation of the land. The plaintiff preferred no direct appeal from this decision dismissing his suit against Anwar Jan Bibee; but Anwar Ali appealed from the decree passed against him. During the course of this appeal, the plaintiff was allowed by the Appellate Court to take a cross-appeal as regards the dismissal of his claim against Anwar Jan Bibee, and the Appellate Court taking a different view of the evidence from the first Court, decreed the plaintiff's suit against Anwar Jan Bibee also.

In special appeal it is contended that a co-respondent in an appeal cannot re-open, by a cross-appeal, a decision which has been passed between him and another co-respondent. At first sight, the terms of the law Section 348, Act VIII. of 1859, are wide enough to permit a respondent in an appeal to take any objection to the decision of the first Court, as if he had preferred a separate appeal from that decision. But there are numerous precedents of this Court which have restricted those terms. It has been held in a long series of decisions that the cross-appeal cannot re-open any questions which have been decided between co respondents, but must have reference to the appellant and the points which are in dispute between the respondent who takes the cross appeal and the appellant. It is quite possible that there may be cases in which, when an appellant succeeds in his appeal, questions will be opened up as between the co-respondents which would otherwise have been decided; and it is also possible, when interests are identical, that a respondent succeeding in his cross-appeal may open up questions as between himself and his co-respondent. But that is not the case in this litigation. The interests of Anwar Ali and Anwar Jan Bibee are completely distinct and separate. Anwar Ali claimed to be the proprietor of the disputed land. Anwar Jan Bibee claimed to be the ryot upon it. The plaintiff submitted to the decision, upholding Anwar Jan Bibee's ryotee interests, and he cannot prefer a cross-appeal as against that decision on an appeal of Anwar Ali as regards the proprietary right. The Subordinate Judge was in error in admitting this cross-appeal, and we set aside his decision upon it, restoring that of the Moonsiff who determined in favor of Anwar Jan Bibee.

The costs of this special appeal will be paid by the plaintiff, special respondent.

The 11th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Mortgage—Money-decree—Right of action.

Case No 1497 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Sylhet, dated the 23rd April 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Lushkerpore, dated the 15th February 1870.

Radha Gobind Surmah (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Syud Umber Ali and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Appellant.

Moulvie Syud Murhumut Hossein for Respondents.

A suit can be brought for the declaration of a person's right to have a mortgaged property put up for sale, notwithstanding a money-decree has already been obtained upon the mortgage-bond, and the property has passed into other hands.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff in this suit is special appellant. He obtained a mortgage from one Busseerooddeen of the disputed property in December 1864. Subsequently, in April 1868, he obtained a money-decree upon that mortgage-bond against Busseerooddeen. The defendants Nos. 1 and 2 appear in the meanwhile, namely, in the year 1865, to have been engaged in litigation with the same Busseerooddeen, and to have obtained against him a decree for costs; and in execution of that decree the rights and interests of Busseerooddeen in the disputed property were sold in June 1867, and were purchased by the defendants Nos. 1 and 2.

Afterwards, when the plaintiff sought to execute his money-decree against this mortgaged property, these defendants objected to the sale on the ground that they were then in possession of the property. Their objections were held good, and the property was released. The plaintiff has now brought this suit upon the mortgage-bond, for a declaration that this disputed property has been mortgaged to him by Busseerooddeen for the payment of the money due upon the mortgage-bond, and that it is liable to be sold to recover that amount.

The first Court came to the conclusion that the plaintiff was entitled to a decree. It looked to the allegations of the defendants that this mortgage-bond was a fraudulent and collusive transaction, and it came to the conclusion that no sufficient ground whatever existed for holding that it was fraudulent, and that the plaintiff had given evidence to prove his deed, and that he was entitled to sell this mortgaged property into whatsoever hands it may have gone.

The Appellate Court has set aside this decision. He has given a long judgment, but it is somewhat difficult to follow his argument. He holds that, as this property was sold in 1867 to the defendants, the plaintiff, though he has a prior mortgage upon it, cannot now enforce his right under that mortgage. The Subordinate Judge quotes a decision of the Court to be found in page 82, IX. Weekly Reporter, in support of this view of the law. That decision, however, distinctly states that a suit can be brought for the declaration of a person's right to have a mortgaged property put up for sale, notwithstanding a money-decree has already been obtained upon the mortgage-bond, and notwithstanding that that property has passed into other hands. The same view o the law will be found in page 316, I. Weekly Reporter, decision of a Full Bench of this Court. The question, then, for the decision of the Subordinate Judge was whether the mortgage-bond which the plaintiff put forth was a real *bonâ-fide* document, or whether it was, as alleged by the defendants, fraudulent and collusive. The Subordinate Judge states in his decision that, in his opinion, the defendants have been unable to prove that it was fraudulent and collusive—but he is of opinion that it was collusive; first, because there was evidence to show that, about the same time as this document was executed, another mortgage-bond was also executed by the same Busseerooddeen to another party; and because some of the witnesses to the two documents are the same; and also because the plaintiff's document was not registered. None of these reasons are any reasons what-

ever for holding that the document was fraudulent. It is by no means uncommon to execute a second mortgage of the same property, and the fact that the same witnesses were present at those two transactions is no ground whatever for suggesting that either the one or the other is fraudulent. And it is hardly necessary to say that the fact that the mortgage is not registered is no reason whatever for setting it aside. The plaintiff in this case put forward his claim upon this mortgage-bond years before the defendants purchased this property as belonging to his mortgagor; years before the defendants purchased the rights and interests of the mortgagor with their eyes open, fully knowing that the plaintiff claimed to hold certain interest in that property. The defendants having failed, as far as we can see from the Lower Appellate Court's decision, to satisfy that Court that this document is in any way fraudulent, the plaintiff was entitled to the decree which he obtained from the Lower Court. We set aside the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, and restore and affirm that of the first Court. The costs of this Court and of the Lower Appellate Court will be paid by the respondents in this special appeal.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 12th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Declaratory suit—Cause of action.

Case No. 1646 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 19th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Jehanabad, dated the 13th May 1870.

Ram Gopal Tewaree (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Gora Chand Poryal and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Kishen Succa Mookerjee and *Grish Chunder Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Respondents.

In a suit for establishment of lakheraj title to, and confirmation of, possession in land which was alleged to have been brought to sale and purchased in execution by the principal defendant, who had then sued some of the plaintiffs for a kubooleut:

HELD that there had been no invasion of plaintiffs' title even if they had a lakheraj title, and that therefore they had no cause of action.

Kemp, J.—THIS is a suit on the part of several plaintiffs, alleging that the 12 cottahs of land in suit formed their lakheraj holding; that the principal defendant, in execution of a decree against one Abdool Kurreem, No. 350 of 1865, attached the property in dispute with other properties, and secretly brought about a sale, and purchased the rights and interests of the aforesaid Abdool Kurreem. Subsequently the defendant sued some of the plaintiffs for a kubooleut. The names of the plaintiffs who were then sued are stated in the plaint, and it is here unnecessary to name them; and that the plaintiffs became aware of the sale from the fact of the suit for a kubooleut being brought. Then the plaint goes on to say: "Although we are, up to the present moment, "*i. e.*, at the time of bringing the suit, in "possession, still there are prospects in "future of our title being threatened or "otherwise invaded by this secret sale." Therefore, the suit is brought for confirmation of the plaintiffs' possession and for the establishment of their lakheraj title. The written statement of the defendant is to the effect that the land in dispute was held by the plaintiffs as tenants, and that they paid rent to his judgment-debtor; and that he, having purchased the rights and interests of his judgment-debtor, was entitled to receive rent from the plaintiffs.

The Lower Appellate Court, in a judgment which is very difficult to understand, states that the Court thinks "that, when the defend-"ant was capable of adducing some witnesses "as heirs of his judgment-debtor's vendors, "showing that they were not opposed to his "interests, he ought satisfactorily to have "established with plaintiffs' kubooleuts and "collection-records that plaintiffs had held as "ryots, and throughout paid rent at first to "Oojul, next to his heirs, and lastly to the "judgment-debtor, until defendant purchas-"ed the judgment-debtor's rights; and as "such has not been done, and defendant has

"not been able satisfactorily to establish that "plaintiffs ever paid rent as tenants to "Oojul and his heirs, and eventually to the "judgment-debtor, I cannot consider de-"fendant entitled as proprietor to recover "rents from plaintiffs as tenants." Now, without going further, this was not a suit by the defendant to recover rent from the plaintiffs as tenants. This was a suit by the plaintiffs, alleging that their title had been invaded by this attempt on the part of the defendant to get a kubooleut from their co-sharers, and they, therefore, sued to establish, not only their lakheraj title, but for confirmation of their possession. It is, therefore, a suit in which the plaintiffs had, not only to prove their title as lakherajdars, but also that they had been in possession.

In appeal, the first point is that the plaintiffs had no cause of action; 2nd, that this being a suit for declaration of an alleged lakheraj title, the plaintiffs were bound to establish that title; 3rd, that there is no evidence of lakheraj title, that the oral evidence adduced by the plaintiffs is hearsay evidence, and that the evidence of the defendant does not, as stated by the Lower Appellate Court, admit the possession of the plaintiffs as lakherajdars, but admits only the possession of the plaintiffs as tenants of the defendants paying rent for the land they hold.

We think that all these grounds have been fully made out. On the first ground there really appears to be no cause of action on which the plaintiffs could sue. We see no invasion of the title of the plaintiffs, supposing them even to have a lakheraj title. On the second point, after reading the evidence of the three witnesses, Ameen, Panchoo, and another witness, it is clear that they gave evidence to the effect that they heard from the plaintiffs that this was their lakheraj land. There is no legal evidence of the alleged lakheraj title of the plaintiffs, an the evidence for the defence is not, as sta d by the Lower Appellate Court, evide ce admitting the possession of the plaintiffs as lakherajdars, but simply that the pla ntiffs had been paying rents as tenants to defendant's predecessors.

think, therefore, that the decision of the wer Appellate Court is wrong, and mu it be reversed. We decree this appeal, an dismiss the plaintiffs' suit with costs.

The 12th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Right of worship—Cause of action—Limitation—Clause 16, Section 1, Act XIV., 1859.

Case No. 1639 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 18th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 31st March 1870.

Gour Mohun Chowdhry (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Muddun Mohun Chowdhry and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Umbika Churn Bose* for Appellant.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Kalee Mohun Doss* for Respondents.

A claim to exercise a right to a turn of worship of an idol is not a recurring cause of action, and a suit to enforce such a right is governed by the limitation prescribed in Clause 16, Section 1, Act XIV. of 1859.

Kemp, J.—THE plaintiff is the special appellant in this case. He sued on the allegation that he was entitled to a turn of worship of a certain idol, which is kept at present in the female apartments of the house occupied by the defendant Muddun Mohun. In the plaint it is set forth that this idol was the ancestral idol of the family; that the defendants were entitled to the first fifteen days of the month worship; that the plaintiff was entitled to 7½ days worship and another party to the other 7½ days; that the plaintiff's right of worship was suddenly interrupted by the defendant on the 16th of Falgoon 1275; that this interruption gave the plaintiff a cause of action, and he therefore brought this suit to enforce his right to a turn of worship of the idol.

Both Courts have dismissed the plaintiff's suit, holding that this suit is barred, inasmuch as the plaintiff has failed to prove

ever for holding that the document was fraudulent. It is by no means uncommon to execute a second mortgage of the same property, and the fact that the same witnesses were present at those two transactions is no ground whatever for suggesting that either the one or the other is fraudulent. And it is hardly necessary to say that the fact that the mortgage is not registered is no reason whatever for setting it aside. The plaintiff in this case put forward his claim upon this mortgage-bond years before the defendants purchased this property as belonging to his mortgagor; years before the defendants purchased the rights and interests of the mortgagor with their eyes open, fully knowing that the plaintiff claimed to hold certain interest in that property. The defendants having failed, as far as we can see from the Lower Appellate Court's decision, to satisfy that Court that this document is in any way fraudulent, the plaintiff was entitled to the decree which he obtained from the Lower Court. We set aside the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, and restore and affirm that of the first Court. The costs of this Court and of the Lower Appellate Court will be paid by the respondents in this special appeal.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 12th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Declaratory suit—Cause of action.

Case No. 1646 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 19th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Jehanabad, dated the 13th May 1870.

Ram Gopal Tewaree (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Gora Chand Poryal and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Kishen Succa Mookerjee and *Grish Chunder Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Respondents.

In a suit for establishment of lakheraj title to, and confirmation of, possession in land which was alleged to have been brought to sale and purchased in execution by the principal defendant, who had then sued some of the plaintiffs for a kubooleut:

HELD that there had been no invasion of plaintiffs' title even if they had a lakheraj title, and that therefore they had no cause of action.

Kemp, J.—THIS is a suit on the part of several plaintiffs, alleging that the 12 cottahs of land in suit formed their lakheraj holding; that the principal defendant, in execution of a decree against one Abdool Kurreem, No. 350 of 1865, attached the property in dispute with other properties, and secretly brought about a sale, and purchased the rights and interests of the aforesaid Abdool Kurreem. Subsequently the defendant sued some of the plaintiffs for a kubooleut. The names of the plaintiffs who were then sued are stated in the plaint, and it is here unnecessary to name them; and that the plaintiffs became aware of the sale from the fact of the suit for a kubooleut being brought. Then the plaint goes on to say "Although we are, up to the present moment "*i. e.*, at the time of bringing the suit, in "possession, still there are prospects of "future of our title being threatened or "otherwise invaded by this secret sale." Therefore, the suit is brought for confirmation of the plaintiffs' possession and for the establishment of their lakheraj title. The written statement of the defendant is to the effect that the land in dispute was held by the plaintiffs as tenants, and that they paid rent to his judgment-debtor; and that he, having purchased the rights and interests of his judgment-debtor, was entitled to receive rent from the plaintiffs.

The Lower Appellate Court, in a judgment which is very difficult to understand, states that the Court thinks "that, when the defendant "ant was capable of adducing some witnesses "as heirs of his judgment-debtor's vendors, "showing that they were not opposed to his "interests, he ought satisfactorily to have "established with plaintiffs' kubooleuts and "collection-records that plaintiffs had held as "ryots, and throughout paid rent at first to "Oojul, next to his heirs, and lastly to the "judgment-debtor, until defendant purchas-"ed the judgment-debtor's rights; and as "such has not been done, and defendant has

not been able satisfactorily to establish that plaintiffs ever paid rent as tenants to Oojul and his heirs, and eventually to the judgment-debtor, I cannot consider defendant entitled as proprietor to recover rents from plaintiffs as tenants." Now, without going further, this was not a suit by the defendant to recover rent from the plaintiffs as tenants. This was a suit by the plaintiffs, alleging that their title had been invaded by this attempt on the part of the defendant to get a kubooleut from their co-sharers, and they, therefore, sued to establish, not only their lakheraj title, but for confirmation of their possession. It is, therefore, a suit in which the plaintiffs had, not only to prove their title as lakherajdars, but also that they had been in possession.

In appeal, the first point is that the plaintiffs had no cause of action; 2nd, that this being a suit for declaration of an alleged lakheraj title, the plaintiffs were bound to establish that title; 3rd, that there is no evidence of lakheraj title, that the oral evidence adduced by the plaintiffs is hearsay evidence, and that the evidence of the defendants does not, as stated by the Lower Appellate Court, admit the possession of the plaintiffs as lakherajdars, but admits only the possession of the plaintiffs as tenants of the defendants paying rent for the land they held.

We think that all these grounds have been fully made out. On the first ground there really appears to be no cause of action for which the plaintiffs could sue. We see no invasion of the title of the plaintiffs, supposing them even to have a lakheraj title. On the second point, after reading the evidence of the three witnesses, Ameen, Kanchoo, and another witness, it is clear that they gave evidence to the effect that they heard from the plaintiffs that this was their lakheraj land. There is no legal evidence of the alleged lakheraj title of the plaintiffs, and the evidence for the defence is not, as stated by the Lower Appellate Court, evidence admitting the possession of the plaintiffs as lakherajdars, but simply that the plaintiffs had been paying rents as tenants to the defendant's predecessors.

We think, therefore, that the decision of the Lower Appellate Court is wrong, and must be reversed. We decree this appeal, and dismiss the plaintiffs' suit with costs.

The 12th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Right of worship—Cause of action—Limitation—Clause 16, Section 1, Act XIV., 1859.

Case No. 1639 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 18th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 31st March 1870.

Gour Mohun Chowdhry (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Muddun Mohun Chowdhry and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Umbika Churn Bose* for Appellant.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Kalee Mohun Doss* for Respondents.

A claim to exercise a right to a turn of worship of an idol is not a recurring cause of action, and a suit to enforce such a right is governed by the limitation prescribed in Clause 16, Section 1, Act XIV. of 1859.

Kemp, J.—THE plaintiff is the special appellant in this case. He sued on the allegation that he was entitled to a turn of worship of a certain idol, which is kept at present in the female apartments of the house occupied by the defendant Muddun Mohun. In the plaint it is set forth that this idol was the ancestral idol of the family; that the defendants were entitled to the first fifteen days of the month worship; that the plaintiff was entitled to 7½ days worship and another party to the other 7½ days; that the plaintiff's right of worship was suddenly interrupted by the defendant on the 16th of Falgoon 1275; that this interruption gave the plaintiff a cause of action, and he therefore brought this suit to enforce his right to a turn of worship of the idol.

Both Courts have dismissed the plaintiff's suit, holding that this suit is barred, inasmuch as the plaintiff has failed to prove

ever for holding that the document was fraudulent. It is by no means uncommon to execute a second mortgage of the same property, and the fact that the same witnesses were present at those two transactions is no ground whatever for suggesting that either the one or the other is fraudulent. And it is hardly necessary to say action he fact that the mortgage is not regis- Act XIV. no reason whatever for setting it that the period laintiff in this case put forward puted from the 16th is mortgage-bond years the suit has been brou purchased this pro- from the time the cause mortgagor; years the suit is within time. Th ased the rights taken is that the Lower Appellor with their ing found that Tarinee was in possh e plaintiff that Tarinee was the sebait, such finding was opposed to the evidence adduced by the defendant, which went to prove that not Tarinee, but her son Muddun Mohun was in possession. The last ground is that certain material witnesses cited by the plaintiff, namely, Ram Coomar Gungopadhya, Protap Chunder Gungopadhya, and Gooroo Pershad Roy, the brother-in-law of the principal defendant, Muddun Mohun, were not examined, although the plaintiff cited them to prove that he had exercised the right sued for within a period which would save his suit from being barred under the statute of limitation, and that the Lower Court refused to send for these witnesses.

We think on the first point that this is clearly not a case of a recurring cause of action. Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee has attempted by some sort of analogy to a rent-suit to make out that this is a recurring cause of action. There is no doubt that a claim for rent is a recurring cause of action, but this is claim to exercise a right of worship of an idol, and cannot be said to be a recurring cause of action. We think that the period of limitation applicable to this case is that laid down in Clause 16, Section 1 of Act XIV. of 1859, and not the limitation prescribed under Clause 13, Section 1 of the same Act.

Under Clause 13, Section 1, suits to enforce a right to share in any property, moveable or immoveable, on the ground that it is joint-family property, &c., &c., 12 years is the prescribed period. Clause 16, Section 1, applies to all suits for which no other limitation is expressly provided, and gives a period of six years from the time the cause of action arose. Now, it cannot be said that this is a suit for a share in any family-

Baboos Kishen Succa Mookerjee and *Gri Chunder Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Respondents.

In a suit for establishment of lakheraj title t confirmation of, possession in land which was to have been brought to sale and purchased in exe by the principal defendant, who had then sued so the plaintiffs for a kubooleut:

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Costs to follow the result.

d

not been able satisfactorily to establish that plaintiffs ever paid rent as tenants to Gojul and his heirs, and eventually to the judgment-debtor, I cannot consider defendant entitled as proprietor to recover rents from plaintiffs as tenants." Now, without going further, this was not a suit by defendant to recover rent from the plaintiffs as tenants. This was a suit by the plaintiffs, alleging that their title had been [illegible] by this attempt on the part of the defendant to get a kubooleut from their [illegible], and they, therefore, sued to establish, not only their lakheraj title, but confirmation of their possession. It is, therefore, a suit in which the plaintiffs had, not only to prove their title as lakheraj-[illegible] but also that they had been in possession.

No one for Opposite Party.

Where a suit for Rupees 13,777 was brought against defendants whose interests were not identical, and the Judge ordered separate trial of the different causes [illegible], as provided in Section 9, Act VIII. 1859, an appeal by the defendants from the decision in one of the suits valued at Rupees 149 was held not to lie to the High Court.

Note by the Deputy Registrar.—The original suit was brought by the plaintiff against several defendants whose interests were not identical. The Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, before whom the suit was instituted, being of opinion that the suit was composed of several causes of action, and could not conveniently be tried together, ordered separate trials, and tried each cause separately, as provided in Section 9, Act VIII. of 1859.

The original suit was valued at 13,777 rupees. The trial from the decision in which this appeal has come up involved a claim for possession of one-third of 6 beegahs and 12 cottahs of land, and was valued at 149 rupees and 17 gundas.

The several trials arising out of the original suit were registered and numbered by the Subordinate Judge as separate suits.

It is a matter, therefore, of doubt, whether an appeal from a decree in such a case will lie to this Court and not to the Court of the Zillah Judge.

I beg to refer the point for the orders of the Court.

Norman, C. J.—The appeal does not lie in the High Court.

The 12th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Right of worship—Cause of action—Limitation—Clause 16, Section 1, Act XIV., 18[illegible]

Case No. 1639 of [illegible]

Special Appeal fr[illegible] the Subordina[illegible] the 18th M[illegible] of the M[illegible] 31st M[illegible]

[illegible]ficiating Ainslie, [illegible]—Section [illegible] others, *Appellants,* *versus* [illegible] Chunder Shamunto, *Respondent.* *No. 32, dated the 25th November 1870, [illegible]m G. A. Pepper, Esquire, Additional Judge of Nuddea, to the Registrar of the High Court.*

Where a respondent resides in Chandernagore, *i. e.*, out of British Territory, the notice of appeal should be forwarded to him by post under a registered cover, and if he does not appear, a verified statement should be put in to show that he is at present, or has recently been, residing there.

SIR,—I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice that the accompanying summons sent by the High Court to serve on the respondent, Gopal Chunder Shamunto alias Tincowree Shamunto, has to be served in the town of Chandernagore, and cannot, therefore, be served from this Court, the respondent living in French Territory.

Note by the Deputy Registrar.—The law which seems to me to apply to a case like the present is Section 60, Act VIII. of 1859, which provides for the service of processes out of British Territory by post.

That perhaps is the course which the Judge should have followed in regard to the notice of appeal (not summons) which he has returned unserved because the respondent is a resident of the Town of Chandernagore; and to ensure service, as well as to procure good evidence of it, the cover enclosing such a process should probably be registered.

To save time this notice may be forwarded to the address of the respondent in Chandernagore under a registered cover.

Norman, C. J.—If the respondent Gopal Chunder Shamunto has not been already so served, notice should be forwarded to him by post under a registered cover; and if the respondent does not appear, a verified statement should be put in to show that the said respondent is at present residing at Chandernagore, or has been living there recently.

The 14th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Res adjudicata—Possession—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1432 of 1869.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, dated the 26th April 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Raojan, dated the 29th November 1870.

Boistub Churn Sein (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Trahee Ram Sein (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Kashee Kant Sein* for Appellant.

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Respondent.

Where, for the purposes of a rent-suit, a Revenue Court finds that a kubooleut propounded by the plaintiff is a genuine document, such finding is no bar to a Civil Court trying the question of right between the parties, and for that purpose trying the validity and genuineness of the kubooleut.

In a suit for possession of a portion of land on the allegation that it had belonged to plaintiff as his ancestral property up to the date of his being ousted, where defendant, admitting the alleged possession, contended that it had been, not that of an owner, but only permissive possession as that of a tenant: HELD that the burden of proof lay on the defendant.

Mookerjee, J.—PLAINTIFF in this case sues for possession of three pieces of land, from which he alleges he has been dispossessed in execution of a decree obtained by the defendants, under Section 78 of Act X. of 1859, on the ground that the properties belong to him as his ancestral properties, and were in his possession up to date of the ouster.

The defendants admit that the disputed land was the property of the plaintiff, but that they purchased it by a kobala, dated in 1196 Mughee; that the plaintiff executed a kubooleut in their favor in the above year, and another in 1214, M.; and that the possession of the plaintiff was not the possession of the malik since the alienation 1196, but was that of a tenant on payme of rent.

The Court of first instance gave plain a decree only for dâg 991, one of the dâgs which he had claimed, holding the kobala as well as the two kubool set up by the defendant are forged fabricated.

Both parties appealed against this de sion to the Subordinate Judge, who, co curring with the Moonsiff in his view the documents produced and relied upon the defendants, gave plaintiff a decree all the 3 plots.

Against this decree of the Subordin Judge one of the defendants appeals cially, urging a point of law never urged him in any of the Courts below, *viz.*, t the defendants having obtained a dec against the plaintiff for arrears of rent ejectment in the Revenue Court, under S tion 78 of Act X. of 1859, the Civil Co has no jurisdiction to entertain a suit hav for its object a declaration that the prop ties belong to the plaintiff as the proprie thereof, which, in effect, nullifies the dec obtained by him in the Collector's Court.

The former suit in the Collector's Co was simply a suit for arrears of rent for ejectment on account of such arre The Revenue Court, in order to the asc tainment of such arrears and for the p poses of that suit, found that the kubool propounded by the plaintiffs in that suit a genuine document. The present suit instituted to have it declared that the p perties, for the rent of which the suit in t Collectorate was brought, do not belong the defendant, but are the ancestral prope ties of the plaintiff, and were in his posse sion down to 1869.

Now, the Court of the Deputy Collec or was neither a Court of concurrent juri diction with the Civil Court, nor o possessing any jurisdiction to try que tions of civil right between the parti We also find that the question which to be decided in this civil suit was neve decided by the Collector's Court, namely whether the property belongs to the plaint or has been purchased by the defendant fro plaintiff in 1196. The only point whic seems to have been tried, and which th Deputy Collector as a Court of exclusiv jurisdiction in cases of rent could only try

nally was whether the arrears claimed by e plaintiff (the defendant in this cause) as actually due.

It cannot be said that because, for the rposes of the rent-case, the kubooleut s held to be a genuine document, that refore the question of the right between e parties, *viz*, whether plaintiff is still in ssession on his own right as owner of the operty, or whether he has not sold the me to the defendant by the kobala of 9⁶, cannot be tried by the Civil Court. it be contended that it constitutes a *res dicata* between the parties to the suit, e simple answer is that the Collector did t even profess to decide the question of e purchase of the property by the defend- from the plaintiff, nor could he decide t question finally.

It is next contended that, the kubooleut ing been pronounced by the Deputy llector as a genuine document, the Civil urt is not at liberty to declare the same not proved or spurious. The main ques- which the Civil Court had to try was, ether plaintiff is the owner of the pro- ties, or has divested himself of that nership by a sale to the defendant. This e Courts have decided by declaring that deed of sale filed by the defendant to ove his purchase is a spurious document, d therefore that no transfer of the proper- was made in favor of defendant. Then, en the admitted possession of the plaintiff sought by the defendant to be made appear as the possession of a tenant der a lease, the Civil Court was at liber- to judge for itself whether plaintiff has any time consented to waive his superior ssession as proprietor and accepted the far erior one, namely, to remain in possession the tenant of the defendant. The fact the Collector having, for the purposes of e rent-suit, decided the kubooleut to be uine would not, we apprehend, debar e Civil Court from inquiring whether the ssession of the plaintiff was the possession a ryot or of an owner, and for that pur- e trying the genuineness and validity the kubooleut.

We, therefore, agreeing with the decision sed by the late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes acock, in the case reported in 8 eekly Reporter, page 175, hold that the ourt of the Collector and that of the dge are not Courts of concurrent jurisdic- ion, and that consequently the decision of the Collector, even if there be any on the question of title, was not conclusive except on the question of rent over which the Collector had exclusive jurisdiction, under Section 23 of Act X. of 1859.

The next contention of Baboo Chunder Madhub was that the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in throwing the onus of proof on the defendant, and in giving a decree to plaintiff on the weakness of the defendant's case. We do not, however, consider that this contention is sound. The defendant admits that the land, the subject of this litigation, belonged to plaintiff. He then states that the plaintiff sold the property to him, and that he was since his purchase in possession of the land. Actual possession of the property is also admitted to be in the plaintiff, but it was contended that that possession was not the possession of an owner, which actual possession may *primâ facie* import, but was a permissive possession as that of a tenant. We think that, from the nature of the pleadings in this case and its peculiar circumstances, the Subordinate Judge was right in throwing the burden of proof on the defendant, and on the failure of the defendant to make out his case adjudging a decree to the plaintiff.

It is next argued that the measurement of two of the dâgs as well as a sunnud of 1855 were made in the name of the defendant, and that the Subordinate Judge has not given due weight to the circumstance, which weighed so heavily with the first Court as to induce it to refuse a decree to the plaintiff for those lands. We find, however, that the Judge has taken that matter into his consideration, and was of opinion that, "when it has been proved that "the defendant's title-deeds, namely, the "kobala and the kubooleut, are false and "untrustworthy, and it is the plaintiff, not "the defendant, who was all along in pos- "session of the land as its proprietor, the "mere insertion of the defendant's name in "the measurement-paper or sunnud being "drawn up in their names, are not sufficient "to warrant the belief that the defendants "are the rightful owners or were posses- "sors of the disputed property." This contention, therefore, is untenable. The Subordinate Judge comes to a conclusion of fact from the whole evidence in the case, which cannot be disturbed in special appeal.

This appeal is, therefore, dismissed with costs.

The 16th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges*.

Attachment of decree—Sections 205 and 237, Civil Procedure Code.

Case No. 93 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the First Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 31st January 1870.

Prince Golam Mahomed (Defendant), *Appellant*,

versus

Indro Chand Johuree (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee and *Umbika Churn Bose* for Respondent.

A decree is property within the description of "other property" in Section 205, Act VIII. of 1859, and is, therefore, liable to attachment and sale in execution. For the purpose of attaching the decree itself and the money due thereunder after it has come into Court, the form laid down in Section 237 is the most appropriate.

Norman, C. J.—I AM of opinion that the decree of the Subordinate Judge is quite correct. Prince Mahomed Rohimooddeen purchased a moiety of a decree in a suit pending in the Court of the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs by Shumsoonnissur Begum against Moonshee Buzloor Roheem. Prince Mahomed Rohimooddeen's name was not entered in the record as a co-plaintiff, or as being jointly interested in the decree with Shumsoonnissur; but by two several orders in the suit, he was treated as being jointly interested with her in the decree and standing in the position of a decree-holder. By the latest of these, dated the 26th of May 1868, it was ordered that he should be at liberty to bid as such, and that a certificate of receipt signed by him should be taken in part-payment of his (8 annas) share of the decree.

On the 17th of August, Indro Chand Johuree, the plaintiff in the present suit, having applied for an attachment of the rights and interests of Prince Mahomed Rohimooddeen in the decree, an order was passed by the Subordinate Judge, who sent a roobakaree to the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, directing that the right, title, and interest of Rohimooddeen in the decree should be attached.

The Judge, on receipt of the roobakaree, passed an order that the decree should be attached according to practice.

On the 24th of August, Prince Golam Mahomed purchased from Prince Mahomed Rohimooddeen his interests under the decree. After this date, the sum of Rupees 1,64,339-1-9 was paid into Court by the defendant Moonshee Buzloor Roheem, the judgment-debtor, on account of the share of Prince Mahomed Rohimooddeen. The whole of this amount, less certain sums to which he admitted the right of the Agra Bank, and Mr. Wilkinson, as Administrator-General, was subsequently taken out of Court by Prince Golam Mahomed.

The present suit is brought by Indro Chand Johuree against Prince Golam Mahomed to recover the amount to which the plaintiff would have been entitled under an attachment out of the sum paid into Court to the credit of Prince Rohimooddeen; but the point argued before us is that the attachment of the decree of the 17th of August operated nothing, inasmuch as it was not an attachment in accordance with any one of the Sections from 233 to 238 of the Code of Procedure Code.

Now, we may observe that the 205th Section declares what are the several species of property liable to attachment and sale in execution of decree, namely—"lands, houses, goods, money, bank-notes, Government securities, bonds, or other securities for money, debts, shares in the capital or joint stock of any railway, banking, or other public company or corporation, and all other property whatsoever, moveable or immoveable, belonging to the defendant, and whether the same be held in his own name, or by another person in trust for him or on his behalf."

Now, we have no doubt but that a decree is property which falls within the description of "*other property*" in Section 205, and is, therefore, declared to be liable to attachment and sale in execution of a decree. But when the Sections from 233 to 238 are read through carefully, it will be found that not one of these Sections appears to be exactly applicable to such property as a decree.

We think, however, that, assuming that none of these Sections contain any provision appropriate for the attachment of a decree, it must not be taken that a decree which

lls within the class of subjects declared ible to attachment by Section 205 is therere not so liable. Of the several species property for the attachment of which ovision is made by the several Sections ove mentioned, that which is most nearly alogous to the right of a decree-holder in decree which is being executed in a Court justice is a security in deposit in a Court justice or money in a Court of justice or the hands of any officer of Government hich is or may become payable to the dedant. The attachment of such property provided for by Section 237.

The attachment in the present case has en made in the manner prescribed by ction 237; and we think that, for the purse of attaching the decree itself, and the ney when it came into Court, the form attachment under Section 237 is perhaps most appropriate. A decree for money be considered as consisting of two gs: first, the debt due from the gment-debtor to the decree-holder; and, ondly, the security for that debt by a ree which renders it capable of being forced. The one being capable of separaon from the other, the two things are disct—one being a debt, the other being the curity for that debt.

Now, if a decree were to be treated merely a debt, and if the only mode of attaching is by an order for attachment under Secn 236, namely, by a "written order proiting the creditor from receiving the ns, and the debtor from making payment reof," the security of a creditor attaching decree will be very imperfect, because the chment would not stay execution of the cree; and if the execution proceeds and e money is realized and paid into Court der the decree, if the decree-holder disgards the order of the Court and applies take out the money in contempt of the der of attachment served on him, he can so, unless there is some order recorded the Court executing the decree prohibiting e decree-holder from receiving the money t of Court. There must, therefore, be some eans of attaching the decree itself more ffectual than the ordinary attachment under ction 236. No doubt, it would be prudent d proper in case of attachment of a decree serve the judgment-debtor with an order der Section 236 in order to attach the bt due from him. But the want of such rder will not affect the attachment of the decree.

In my opinion, the attachment in the present case was valid and effectual. Prince Golam Mahomed has taken out of Court money which was subject to the lien and attachment of the plaintiff Indro Chand Johuree. I think he is, therefore, liable to refund to Indro Chand the money so taken, to the extent of his lien, and the Subordinate Judge was right in decreeing the plaintiff's case.

This appeal must, therefore, be dismissed with costs.

Bayley, J.—I concur.

Mitter, J.—I am of the same opinion.

I think that the objection now taken before us was never pressed by the defendant in the Court below, and as it is not pretended by him that he took the assignment from Prince Rohimooddeen without being aware of the attachment, I think he ought not to be permitted to take that objection now.

I would also dismiss the appeal with costs.

The 16th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Lessee—Boundary-dispute—Survey.

Case No. 127 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Gya, dated the 21st March 1870.

Ameeree Begum and others (Some of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Gobind Pandey and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellants.

Messrs. R. E. Twidale and *C. Gregory* and *Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee* and *Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Respondents.

In a suit by the lessee of a mouzah to recover possession of a piece of land from a lessee of an adjoining mouzah, both making title under one zemindar, where a survey had taken place at a time when both mouzahs to which respectively the land was claimed as belonging were in his possession, and when neither of the leases was in existence:

HELD that the suit involved simply a question of boundary, and what was to be ascertained was, to which mouzah the land in dispute was found to belong at the time of the survey.

Maharajàh Joy Mungul Singh (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Mohun Ram Marwaree (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboos Nil Madhub Sein* and *Boodh Sein Singh* for Appellant.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

An arbitrator has full power to retract his resignation of office before it is accepted.

Norman, C. J.—We think that there is not the smallest doubt in this case.

The appeal is an appeal against a judgment passed in pursuance of an award made by Mr. Teignmouth Sandys and Moulvie Wahidooddeen, as arbitrators. The judgment, being in accordance with the award, is final.

Mr. Allan, however, has attempted to make one point—and only one—which has the least semblance of substance in it, namely, that, before signing the award, Mr. Sandys had resigned the office of arbitrator to which he had been appointed in the course of a judicial proceeding by the Judge of Bhaugulpore. A paper which had been irregularly signed as an award having been sent back to Mr. Sandys and Moulvie Wahidooddeen, in order that they should sign it at the same time, Mr. Sandys wrote a letter to the Judge, expressing his desire and intention to resign the office of arbitrator, and, as far as he could, at the same time, resigning such office.

The Judge wrote to Mr. Sandys, dissuading him from persisting in his refusal to act, upon which Mr. Sandys withdrew his resignation, and proceeded to make the award.

It appears to us that, as he did so before his resignation was accepted by the Court by which he had been appointed, he had full power to retract his resignation; and his award is a good and perfectly legal award.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 18th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Possessory suit—Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859—Ghatwals—Leases.

Cases Nos. 73 and 125 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom dated the 24th March 1870.

Mr. G. Grant and the Court of Wards (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Bungshee Deo (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Messrs. J. Graham and *R. E. Twidale* and *Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee* and *Juggodanund Mookerjee* for Appellants.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Sreenath Das* for Respondent.

A suit for restoration to possession on the ground of having been dispossessed otherwise than by due process of law, where the plaintiff seeks to exclude the question of title must be brought within six months after the time of dispossession.

A ghatwal is not competent to grant a lease in perpetuity, and his successors are not bound to recognise such an incumbrance.

Norman, C. J.—The plaintiff, the younger of two sons of Junglee Deo, who was the great-grandson of one Roop Narain Deo, the proprietor of a ghatwalee estate called Talooka Rohinee in the District of Beerbhoom, sued for the recovery of possession of five villages, part of this ghatwalee talook, which he claimed as having been assigned to his ancestors for their maintenance in hereditary right.

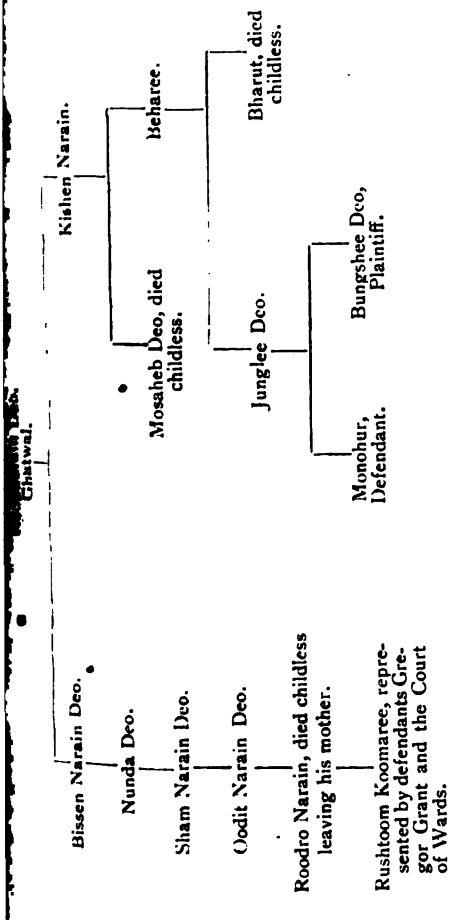
The title set up in the plaint is under an alleged lease said to have been granted by Bissen Narain, the brother of his ancestor Kishen Narain Deo, to his grandfather Beharee Deo, son of Kishen Narain, out of the ghatwalee estate of Rohinee, of which Bissen Narain was then the owner, at a fixed rent of Rupees 31-12.

He values his suit at Rupees 29,224 Rupees 18,945 being the value of the land and Rupees 10,279 the amount of the mesne-profits for the period of dispossession.

The defendants, Mr. Grant, lessee under the Court of Wards, and the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs representing the Court of Wards on behalf of Rushtoom Koomaree, the mother of Roodro Narain Deo, in whom the ghatwalee estate now vested, by their written statements pled several defences.

The principal defence—that which was mainly argued before us in appeal—was that, as regards ghatwalee tenures in Beerbhoom, the ghatwal has no authority to grant a lease in perpetuity.

In order to the better understanding of the facts, it is convenient to refer to the pedigree of the parties, which is as follows :—



The plaintiff did not prove a lease by Bissen Narain to Kissen Narain as alleged, but a lease granted in 1240 by Sham Narain to Junglee Deo to hold generation after generation at an annual rent of 11 rupees.

The ghatwalee estate having been attached in execution of a decree, the Sezawul dispossessed the lessee on which Mosaheb Deo, the uncle of Junglee Deo, made an application to the Collector, who, by order dated 12th July 1838, *i. e.*, 1245, directed that he, Mosaheb Deo, should be restored to possession paying an enhanced rent of thirty rupees Sicca, or Company's rupees thirty-two.

Oodit Narain, who was the ghatwal prior to 1857, became insane. On his death, the Court of Wards, on the 13th of April 1867, caused a proclamation to be made requiring the tenants of the ghatwalee estate to pay their rents to the Court of Wards on behalf of his infant son Roodro Narain, and from that time it is not disputed that the plaintiff and his family have been out of possession. But prior to this date, namely, on the 3rd April 1854, the rights and interests of the plaintiff's father, Junglee Deo, were sold in execution of a decree against him, and were bought by one Gireedharee, who has come forward as a witness in the present suit, and stated that he had no real interest, and that he bought benamee for Junglee Deo. Strange to say, the Subordinate Judge stopped the defendant's vakeels, who were cross-examining the witness as to the nature of his dealings with Junglee Deo, who appeared to have been indebted to him, saying that the questions were not relevant, and this, though it appeared from his own statement that he had been collecting rents—he says as tehsildar—from 1260 to 1263, that is, from 1853 to 1857.

The Subordinate Judge decides all the issues in favor of the plaintiff. He disposes of the question relating to the power of a ghatwal to grant a lease in perpetuity, by saying that, if a ghatwal *bonâ fide* grants a lease in perpetuity, it remains good and valid, not only during the life of the ghatwal, but also after his death, so long as his heirs continue to hold the ghatwalee. He says also: "The lease granted by a former ghatwal can be set aside by a regular suit. The Court of Wards or surburakar under them cannot, of their own authority, oust any persons in possession of lands under a lease granted by the ancestor of the present ghatwal."

From that decision the defendants have appealed.

It is necessary first to notice the point, which might arise if it be true, as supposed

by the Subordinate Judge, that Mr. Grant, the lessee under the Court of Wards, wrongfully dispossessed the plaintiff or his father without suit. If the plaintiff had sued for restoration to possession on the ground that he had been dispossessed otherwise than by due process of law, and sought to exclude the question of title, as appears to have been the case in Marshall's Reports, page 117, the suit should have been brought within six months after the time of the dispossession—see Section 15 of Act XIV. of 1859.

In the suit now brought it is incumbent on the plaintiff to show that he had a right to possession subsisting at the time of the commencement of the suit. He must, therefore, show that the lease under which he claims is valid and binding against the present ghatwal.

A point very closely resembling that with which we have to deal was considered by the late Sudder Court in the case of Hur Lall Singh *versus* Jorawun Singh, VI. Select Reports, pp. 169 to 171. In that case, a ghatwalee estate had been divided by a previous ghatwal amongst his family, and one of the family, who was, in fact, the eldest son of the ghatwal, sued for partition and separate possession of the one-third share which had been assigned to him. After full consideration the Court dismissed the suit, deciding that ghatwalee lands are grants for particular purposes, especially of police, and to divide them into small portions amongst heirs of the ghatwals would be to defeat the very end for which the grants were made. Mr. Rattray says: "The lands "are held conditionally on the due perform-"ance of certain defined duties. They be-"long to the office, and should not be fritter-"ed away into portions inadequate to the "remuneration of the duty demandable from "the occupants of the whole as a whole. I "would not allow the division even with "the sanction of an entire family or clan."

In the case already referred to in Marshall's Reports, the Court say that they think that the ghatwals of Beerbhoom are, under Section 2, Regulation XXIX. of 1814, possessed of estates of inheritance without the power of alienation.

The late Sudder Court, S. D. A, 1853, page 900, held that "ghatwalee tenures "of Beerbhoom, being, not the private pro-"perty of the ghatwals, but lands assigned "by the State in remuneration for specific "police-services, are not alienable or attach-"able for personal debts."

The language of the judgment is quite general, but the case before the Court was of an attachment of the ghatwalee estate in the hands of Bharut Chunder Singh, ghatwal, under a decree against the former ghatwal Digbijoy Singh. This case came under the consideration of the High Court—Sir Barnes Peacock and Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson, in the case of Binode Ram Sein *versus* the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, 7 Weekly Reporter 178. The Court, in holding that the rents of a ghatwalee tenure are not liable in the hands of the heir in possession to attachment for debts of his ancestor, the former holder of the tenure, say that, "under the Regulation, "the holder of the tenure is to enjoy the "whole income of the tenure," and that "it must have been intended that each "ghatwal should be entitled to the whole "income of the estate, and that such income "should not be charged or incumbered by a "previous ghatwal."

With this opinion we entirely agree. We think that the supposed lease by Sham Narain was an incumbrance which, as a ghatwal, he was incompetent to make, and that the succeeding ghatwals were not bound to recognize such lease.

Mr. Graham was content to take our judgment on this point, and therefore we did not go into the many other objections to the judgment of the Court below.

We reverse the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and dismiss the suit with costs in both the Courts.

The 18th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Application for Probate—Stamps—Article 1, Schedule II., Act VII., 1870.

In the Matter of

Judoonath Shadhookhan and ou[illegible]

Petitioners.

Baboo Bungshee Dhur Sein for Peti[illegible]s.

The stamp requisite for an application for a pr[illegible]ate of a will, or letters of administration, is not requ[illegible]red to be proportionate to the value of the property invo[illegible]ved as such applications come under the provision mad[illegible] in Article 1, Schedule II., Act VII. of 1870, for [illegible]non applications and petitions.

THE petitioners presented an appl[illegible]ion to the High Court, representing that [illegible]he

Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs returned an application for probate made to him on a stamp of the value of 8 annas, on the ground that the stamp was insufficient, and that such applications should be engrossed on a stamp of the value provided for plaints, and prayed for the Court's interference for its admission.

The Judge was called upon to explain the grounds upon which he based his order in respect of the stamp, and those also upon which he considered the stamp to be insufficient, and was referred to Act VII. of 1870 as repealing the Schedule of Act X. of 1865.

In his letter No. 651, dated the 16th December 1870, the Judge explained as follows: "In reply to your letter No. 3757 of the 13th instant, I have the honor to observe that, since the repeal of the Schedule of Act X., 1865, there is apparently no specific rule fixing the stamp requisite for applications for probate of wills. Cases instituted under Act X., 1865, and therefore cases under Act XXI., 1870, are declared to be in the nature of suits; and therefore I held that the stamp requisite for the application must be proportionate to the value of the property covered by the will. If the application be considered as coming under the rule of Clause 6, Article 1 of the 2nd Schedule of the Court Fees Act, the stamp for a common petition would suffice; but it seems to me that cases of applications for probate or letters of administration, and also certificate-cases under Act XXVII., 1860, and any other case which is to be tried as a regular suit, ought, according to strict interpretation of the law, to be covered by the stamps required for plaints. This appears to me to involve considerable hardship, and I shall be glad if the High Court can put a different interpretation on the law."

Note by the Deputy Registrar.—Act VII. of 1870 (Schedule 1, Article 11) fixes *ad valorem* fees for a probate of a will or letters of administration, and (Article 12) for a cer[illegible]ate granted under Act XXVII. of 186[illegible]

I[illegible]ot expressly provide for *an applicati*[illegible] probate, &c., which is evidently inte[illegible]led to be treated as an ordinary applicati[illegible]or which provision is made in Schedule[illegible]rticle 1, Note c.

[illegible]dgment of the High Court.

J. [illegible]*jee, J.*—We are of opinion that the [illegible] of the law taken by the Judge is incorrect. Section 329 of Act X. of 1865, and the Schedule appended to that enactment, having been repealed by the Court Fees Act (VII. of 1870), and no separate or special provision having been made by Act XXI. of 1870, or any other subsequent enactment, for stamps for applications for probate, &c., those applications appear to us to come under the provision made by law for common applications and petitions in Schedule 2, Article 1 of Act VII. of 1870.

The case will go back to the Judge who will admit the application as made on a proper stamp.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Breach of contract—Damages.

Case No. 123 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Backergunge, dated the 24th March 1870.

Raj Coomar Roy Chowdhry and another (Defendants), *Appellants*,

versus

Rajah Debendro Narain Roy (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Baboos Kallee Mohun Doss, Romesh Chunder Mitter, and *Doorga Mohun Doss* for Appellants.

Baboo Amerendro Nauth Chatterjee for Respondent.

D contracted to sell to P a piece of land for Rs. 4,500, of which he received 700 as earnest-money. A contract was drawn up by which D agreed to execute and register a bill of sale, and deposit a part (Rs. 1,800) of the price, and P was to execute a bond for Rs. 2,000 to bear interest conditioned for the payment of that sum by a fixed date, the transaction to be completed within a specified period. D was ready and willing to perform his part of the contract by the time named; but finding that P would not complete the purchase, but demanded back the earnest-money, he sold the property to a third party for Rs. 3,800. P then sued to recover the earnest-money and damages.

HELD that P was bound to show that the circumstances were such as to give him an equitable right to have back the earnest-money, and that, had it not been deposited, D could have justly sued for damages to the extent of the loss incurred by the second sale, and therefore P was not entitled to recover the 700 rupees.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a suit brought by Debendro Narain Roy to recover a sum of Rupees 700 paid, as a deposit on a contract for the purchase of three lots of land, and Rupees 25 and 8 annas for stamp-paper, and also damages which the plaintiff alleges he has sustained in consequence of the defendant's not having carried out a contract to sell the land to the plaintiff.

The facts, so far as they are material, are shortly these:—

The defendant contracted to sell to the plaintiff the land in question for Rupees 4,500, and received as earnest-money Rupees 300 on the 2nd, and Rupees 400 on the 16th of Assin 1276, making up the Rupees 700 for the recovery of which the present action is brought.

A contract was drawn up by which the defendant agreed to execute and duly register a bill of sale of the property for Rupees 4,500, of which a part, *viz.*, Rupees 1,800, was to be deposited, and the said sum was, in fact, deposited with one Kala Chand Poddar, a resident of Burrisaul, and the plaintiff was to execute to the defendants a bond for Rupees 2,000 to bear interest at 3 per cent. per month conditioned for the payment of Rupees 2,000 by the 30th Maugh 1276. The transaction was to be completed within 10 days from the time of the opening of the Registry Office after the Dusserah vacation, which would bring the time for the completion of the sale to the 22nd Kartick 1276.

The defendants have proved that they were ready to execute the kobala by the time named, and that, on the 19th or 20th of Kartick, Jogendro Narain Roy, the younger of the two defendants, the son of Raj Coomar, the elder, came to Burrisaul for the purpose of having the kobala registered, and that he sent a message to the plaintiff to inform him of his arrival for that purpose. The plaintiff received that notice, and said he was coming, but did not come. He did not offer to execute the bond for Rupees 2,000 until after the 29th Aughran; and in fact on that day when he put his seal to that which was afterwards filled in as a bond for Rupees 2,000, it was in the condition of a piece of blank paper.

It is proved by the evidence on the record that the defendants were ready and willing to perform their part of the contract; so much so that they were willing to take the sum of Rupees 4,400 instead of Rupees 4,5 seven or eight days after the 22nd of Kart This appears from the statement of the plai iff himself, who was examined on oath the 22nd March 1870, and also from the dence of Jogendro Narain, who was amined on the 23rd March of that year.

It is clear, therefore, that the defenda not only down to the 22nd of Kartick which time the kobala was to have b executed, but even subsequently to t date, were quite willing and ready to ca out the contract.

It is further proved by the witness Taru nath Ghose, that he was sent to ask plaintiff if he would complete the purcha that the plaintiff told him he wo not, and demanded back the money p by way of earnest. It is also proved the evidence of Gopal Shaha, to whom t property has now been sold, that the plai iff came to him and wanted him to co into an arrangement by which they sho get the property from the defendants a less price than the plaintiff had contract to pay, the plaintiff offering to give h (Gopal) a share in the property if he wou assist him.

On the 26th of Aughran, the defenda finding that the plaintiff would not co plete the purchase, sold the property to G pal Kisto for Rupees 3,800, that is to s for a sum less by 700 than the defenda would have got if the plaintiff had carri out his contract.

I do not think it necessary in this ca to rely on the special condition for forfeitu of the deposit contained in the 8th paragra of the contract. If, independently of th actual loss sustained by reason of the plaint iff's failure to carry out his contract, th defendants were insisting on retaining th 700 rupees by way of penalty, we migh have been obliged to rest our judgment o the condition contained in the 8th para graph. But in the present case, the plaint is bound to show that, the contract havin been broken by him, the circumstances a such as to give him an equitable right t have back the 700 rupees deposited by him. Now, it is clear that, if he gets back an portion of that money, the defendants woul be in a worse position than if the plaintiff had carried out his contract like an honest man.

It is clear that, if there had been no deposit, and the defendants had sued the plaintiff for damages for breach of contract in having failed to complete the purchase and to pay the sum originally stipulated to be paid, they would have been entitled in that suit to damages to the extent of the whole sum of Rupees 700.

For these reasons, I am of opinion that the judgment of the Lower Court, which awarded the plaintiff Rupees 700 on some notion that the contract had not been broken by the plaintiff, is erroneous, and must be reversed, and the plaintiff's suit must be dismissed with costs.

Loch, J.—I concur.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Limitation—Statutory bar—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1455 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Gya, dated the 2nd May 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 29th September 1869.

Syud Ameer Ali (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Maharanee Indurjeet Kooer (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Respondent.

In a suit to recover land of which defendant had admittedly held adverse possession for upwards of 11 years, where plaintiff's cause of action was alleged to have arisen at the close of a contest between him and the Government which had claimed to resume the land, when the Collector recorded a proceeding that the plaintiff should recover possession of his land, defendant's plea was that he knew nothing of that contest, and had held possession for 27 years.

HELD that it lay upon the plaintiff to remove the statutory bar which defendant had set up, by showing that he, or some one under whom he claimed, had been in possession within 12 years next before the commencement of the suit.

Jackson, J.—I THINK it clear that the decision of the Court below cannot be supported. This was a case in which the plaintiff sued to recover from the defendants possession of some 146 beegahs of land, which the defendant had admittedly held adversely to the plaintiff for upwards of 11 years. It appears that between the plaintiff and the Government the question had previously been raised, the Government claiming to resume a considerably larger tract of land, namely, 1,200 beegahs, but eventually giving up all claim except to a much smaller area.

Upon the claim being given up, the Collector seems to have recorded a proceeding in which he declared the plaintiff should recover possession of his land; and it is contended by the plaintiff, special respondent, that the plaintiff's cause of action arose at that period; and this is the view which has been taken by the Lower Appellate Court as well as by the Court of first instance.

The defendant's case was that he knew nothing whatever of the contest between the plaintiff and Government, but that he had acquired the land in dispute by purchase from certain lakherajdars some 27 years before suit, and that, consequently, the plaintiff, if he had any title whatever, was barred by limitation in consequence of lapse of time.

This, it appears to me, is a case in which the ruling of the Privy Council reported in VIII. Moore's Indian Appeals* precisely applies. The plaintiff by her own admission came into Court 11½ years after the cause of action arose; the defendant had set up a statutory bar to the suit; and it, therefore, clearly lay upon the plaintiff to remove that bar, to use the words of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, by showing that she or some one under whom she claimed had been in possession of the land in dispute within 12 years next before the suit was commenced.

Now, it seems to me that the words of the plaintiff's allegation do very strongly support this plea. The plaintiff does not allege that she was put out of possession of this land at the period mentioned, but at that period she obtained an order from the Collector entitling her to possession, and that, on going to take possession of those lands, she was obstructed by the defendant. That clearly seems to show that at that time the defendant was in possession of that land.

That being so, it was manifestly, I think, the business of the plaintiff to show at what period that adverse possession commenced.

* 1 W. R., P. C., p. 51.

It seems there was no evidence whatever to show that. All the plaintiff had to rely upon was the evidence as to his being dispossessed by Government in a certain sense of 1,200 beegahs, and of those lands being comprised within the boundaries of the mouzah in which these 1,200 beegahs were contained. Both the Courts below, therefore, placed the defendant in considerable difficulty, both as to pleading and as to proof, by calling upon him, in effect, to make out both title and possession in regard to these lands.

It seems to me that the Courts below were not entitled to place the defendant in this position. His case was a simple one. He set up the bar of limitation, and he asked the Courts to call upon the plaintiff to remove that bar. It seems the plaintiff failed to do so, and the suit ought, therefore, to have been dismissed.

I think, therefore, that the decision of both the Courts below must be set aside, and this appeal allowed with costs.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Contract—Specific performance—Purchase-money.

Case No. 797 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated the 31st January 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 16th April 1869.

Mahadoo Begum (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Syud Hubeebool Hossein and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Piffard for Appellant.

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Respondents.

Plaintiff had entered into a contract with one of the defendants for the purchase of certain immoveable property, and after he made a small advance, the contract was written out and registered. The purchaser refusing to pay up the purchase-money unless the vendor paid the costs, or half the costs, of registration, the latter re-sold the property to a third person. The present suit was to compel the completion of the contract and delivery of the property.

HELD that, as the parties had entered into a written contract, the Court was bound to see whether it was, or was not, their intention that a complete and binding sale should take place, although the purchase-money was not paid.

HELD that in bringing such a suit plaintiff was bound if he had not previously tendered the money to the defendant, to pay it into Court.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff in this case had entered into a contract with one of the defendants, who was owner of certain immoveable property, for the sale of that property, the purchase-money being fixed at 174 rupees. The purchaser made an advance of 7 rupees, after which the contract was written out and registered. The vendor, it seems, did not part with the deed, but retained possession of it for some time, and then, the purchaser being absent, complained to the purchaser's brother that the contract was not carried out. That brother wrote to the purchaser, who, in reply, sent a letter to the effect that, if the vendor would pay the costs, or half the costs, incurred in registration, he would pay up the purchase-money. The vendor declined to pay any part of costs of registration, and after a delay of nearly a year re-sold the property to a third person. The plaintiff, who was the first purchaser, now sues to compel the completion of the contract and delivery of the property to him.

The Moonsiff who tried the suit considered that the plaintiff, by refusing to pay up the purchase-money which he had paid in part, had entitled the defendant to recede from the contract and to re-sell the property. The Subordinate Judge was of a different opinion: he came to the conclusion that the 7 rupees advanced was for part of the consideration-money, and that, according to the principles of the Mahomedan Law of Contract, a complete and binding sale had taken place, and therefore ordered that the sale should be carried out; but, singularly enough, he appears to have allowed the plaintiff three months' time from the date of the decree within which to pay the purchase-money.

Against this decision, the defendant, who is the second purchaser, appeals specially. The objections taken are shortly these: That in the first place, the Lower Appellate Court erroneously applied the general principles of Mahomedan Law to a case in which the parties had respectively entered into a written contract containing certain stipula-

ns, one of which was that the payment of e full amount of purchase-money should a condition precedent to the extinction of vendor's title. The other ground is at the Lower Appellate Court has altoher misconceived and mis-stated the evince as to payment of part of the consideon-money.

It appears to me that both these objecs are to some extent well-founded. The ties had entered into a written contract; Court was, therefore, bound to see ther it was, or was not, the intention of parties that a complete and binding sale ld take place, although the purchaseey was not paid. There are words in contract which justify doubt on the ect, and that question is one which t to be considered.

econdly, I think there is no doubt that evidence would point to quite a different clusion from that to which the Subore Judge has come as to the payment consideration-money. So far as we can , that payment undoubtedly was a payt on account of the expenses of preparan and registration, and those expenses are ally borne by the purchaser. But inendently of that, it seems to me that Subordinate Judge was not justified in ing that the evidence of the witnesses up that which he states they set up. It pears that only one of the witnesses spoke some declaration on the part of the dor, whereas another of the witnesses, essing much better means of knowledge, e distinctly to the contrary effect. besides that, there was the letter of the chaser himself which appears to be alt conclusive upon the point, which clearshows that he looked upon the payment ich he had made as a payment made on ount of registration. It would also seem at that time he had no precise conion in his mind of what he was entitled because he insisted that the vendor ld pay either the whole or half of that ount, whereas, if he had really paid any of the purchase-money, he would have en clearly entitled to take credit for the ole of such payment.

It is quite clear, therefore, that the evince was not properly considered and the ect of it mis-stated, and that, upon this int, at any rate, it should be re-considered. he case will, therefore, be remanded for a w trial, regard being had to the observaons which I have made.

I must also observe that it was quite improper on the part of the Subordinate Judge to allow the plaintiff a period of three months after decree to pay the money of the decree. The plaintiff, it seems to me, was bound in bringing such a suit as the present, if he had not previously tendered it to the defendant, at all events to have paid the money into Court when he brought the suit.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges:*

Possession—Title.

Case No. 1228 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, dated the 30th March 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 28th August 1869.

Golam Reza Chowdhry and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Chandoo Meah Lushkur (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Appellants.

Baboo Tarucknath Sein for Respondent.

In a suit to recover possession of land which both plaintiff and defendant claimed to have reclaimed from jungle and to have possessed many years, and for which both claimed to have obtained pottahs from Government, the mere fact that, the land was included in plaintiff's pottah was held to be insufficient to entitle him to a decree.

Jackson, J.—It seems to me that the decision of the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Cachar cannot stand.

The plaintiff in this case brought the suit to recover possession of a certain plot of land from the defendant. He alleged that the land in question had been 15 or 16 years ago in the possession of himself and a co-sharer; that subsequently in 1857 he had obtained a pottah of it from Government, the land having fallen to his share under a

private partition with his co-sharer; that he, plaintiff, held possession of the land until within the last two or three years, when the defendant, without any right or title, forcibly dispossessed him from it. The defendant, on the other hand, stated that he had reclaimed the land from jungle 16 or 17 years ago; that it was contained in his pottah; and that he had all along been in possession and had never dispossessed the plaintiff, whose story was an utter fabrication.

The first Court went minutely into the evidence, and disbelieving that of the plaintiff, and considering that the defendant had always been in possession, dismissed the plaintiff's suit as barred by limitation.

The Deputy Commissioner, on appeal, has held that, as plaintiff obtained a pottah of the land from Government in 1857, the suit is not barred by limitation, and for the same reason that plaintiff is entitled to possession, whether the defendant has or has not been in possession for the last 16 years.

On special appeal it is urged before us that this is no real trial of the case, and we think that, it is not. It will be observed that both parties lay claim to the land as having been in their possession for some 15 years, and, in fact, as having been reclaimed from jungle by them, and both parties claim it as being included in their pottahs from Government.

In a former case, it was held that the date of the pottah which the plaintiff obtained from Government was the date on which the plaintiff's cause of action arose. This may be the case where the plaintiff obtains a pottah of jungle land. But in this case neither party allege that their rights commenced under their respective pottahs. Both state that they have been in possession some 15 years; both state that they reclaimed the land from jungle; and both state that they subsequently obtained a confirmation of their rights by a pottah from Government. In such a case, the pottah of the plaintiff conferred no new rights to the land, and the mere fact that the land is contained in that pottah is not sufficient ground for deciding in favor of the plaintiff. If it was, the Government might give a pottah to the defendant one year, to the plaintiff the next year, and again to the defendant the third year, and no person's rights or interests would be safe. The whole of the facts of the case must first be tried, and the dis as to which of the two parties has all been in possession decided. If the plai has held the land for the last 15 years he was dispossessed by the defendant, will be entitled to a decree. If, on other hand, the defendant has held posse during all that time, the plaintiff w not, on the false allegations made by be entitled to dispossess him, whethe had obtained a pottah of the land or In the case to which the Deputy Com sioner alludes, there was a remand by Court to try the question of the effec such settlements as that claimed by plaintiff; and it was then found by the Deputy Commissioner, in a long and ca judgment, that where land has been rec ed from jungle by one person that p is entitled to the settlement-pottah, that it must be offered to him before granted to any one else. The effect o present Deputy Commissioner's judgme completely to set aside that of his pred sor.

We reverse the decision of the D Commissioner, and remand the case for The costs will await the final judgment.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onooko Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Right of way—Marriage-processions.

Case No. 1561 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Subordinate Judge of Dacca, d the 3rd May 1870, modifying a deci of the Moonsiff of Bohur, dated 21st December 1869.

Raj Manick Singh (Plaintiff), *Appellant*

versus

Ruttun Manick Bose and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Luckhee Churn Bose for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Huree Moh Chuckerbutty* for Respondents.

A general right of thoroughfare includes a right way for marriage or other processions of the

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ture, unless, at the time of the first inception of the right, it was restricted to a right of passage, and such processions were interdicted.

Mookerjee, J.—THIS is a suit to re-open a pathway across which the defendants have thrown a fence, and thus prevented the plaintiff from passing through. The plaintiff, therefore, sues to have this pathway opened, and for a declaration that this pathway is also a way by which his marriage-processions pass. The defendants deny the assertion of the plaintiff that it was ever used as pathway, plead limitation, and allege that no marriage-procession ever passed by. The Court of first instance held a local inquiry in person, and on the evidence adduced by the plaintiff was satisfied that the disputed place was occupied by a pathway leading to the house of the plaintiff, which has lately been stopped by the principal defendant." The first Court also states that this fact is "further corroborated by the evidence of Byrub Churn, Parinee Churn, and Ram Nidhee Chuckerbutty; as also by the testimony of Ram Churn Kurmokar and Wooma Kant Chuckerbutty, witnesses cited by both parties; and that, besides being a pathway, it was used by the plaintiff for marriage and other processions." That Court, therefore, gave a full decree to the plaintiff.

Against this decision, the defendants appealed to the Subordinate Judge, who, concurring with the Moonsiff in his view that the disputed place was a pathway, held that, "as, with the exception of the two witnesses Kasee Chunder Bose and Chunder Koomar Chuckerbutty, the remaining 7 witnesses and the aforesaid 3 priests, as well as the witnesses named by the defendants, have deposed that they never saw any marriage-procession pass through that pathway, that therefore it is not proved that, except as a public thoroughfare, there was any pathway over the disputed place which was used for marriage-processions." The Subordinate Judge gave a modified decree to the plaintiff, dissatisfied with which the plaintiff appeals specially, urging, firstly, that, when the Subordinate Judge has held that a public right of way exists over the lands in dispute, he was wrong in prohibiting marriage-processions to pass along it; secondly, that the Lower Appellate Court has misread and misconstrued the depositions of the witnesses examined by the plaintiff, inasmuch as, besides the two witnesses mentioned by the Court, Juggobundhoo, Rujonee Kant, and Goluck have clearly deposed that marriage-processions do pass by this thoroughfare, and that they actually witnessed the processions, and saw them pass.

With regard to the first objection, we have to observe that, as we understand the Subordinate Judge to mean that he was satisfied that there was a public pathway or thoroughfare over the disputed land for general purposes (সাধারণ চলাচলের রাস্তা), it does not appear why that right should not include a right to pass along with marriage-processions. It may be objected that processions on occasions of marriage generally consist of carriages, horses, or elephants; and it may be that the owner of the land had excluded the right of taking wheeled carriages or beasts of burden, when the original grant was made to the public to pass through this way. But it is difficult to understand how and why the right to take a marriage or other procession, which consists of foot-passengers, is not included in the general right of thoroughfare which the Subordinate Judge finds the plaintiff, along with the public, enjoy over this disputed pathway. The Subordinate Judge has excluded marriage-processions altogether without any finding as to whether, by the custom prevalent in that part of the country, it is usual when making grants to the public of a thoroughfare or pathway over one's field, to make the grant in such restricted and limited a form as to exclude all processions whether on foot or not; and whether in this particular case there is evidence to show that the original grant, when made, was of this nature or not. The mere fact of processions not having passed for a number of years would not, we apprehend, of itself be sufficient or conclusive to prove that the original grant contained a restriction that no processions even on foot should pass over this way. For it may be that for some years past there were no marriages in the houses to which this pathway leads, and consequently there was no occasion to pass through it. We think that, where a right of the nature found in this case by the Subordinate Judge is proved, against the manifestly false contention of the defendant, that there was no right of way at all over this place, and that it was a portion of his field, that in that right is included the right to take marriage and other processions of the like nature; unless the defendants are able to prove that, at the time of the first inception of that right, it is restricted simply to a

right of passage, and that marriage or *shadee*-processions were interdicted.

Moreover, the Court of first instance, who had been to the spot, and before whom all the witnesses were examined, finds that "it "has been satisfactorily proved that the "disputed place was occupied by a public "thoroughfare, which was used by the plaint-"iff for marriage and other processions to "pass through it, but which has subse-"quently been stopped by the defendants;" and that "it appears that there is no other "pathway than the one in question for "marriage-processions to pass from the "plaintiff's house." The Subordinate Judge, we regret to find, reverses this finding of the Court below, by holding, as some of the witnesses deposed, "that they never "saw any marriage-procession pass through "that pathway," and that "consequently it "has not been proved that there was any "road over the disputed place which was "used by the plaintiff for the purposes of "marriage-processions." We are not at all satisfied with this finding, and would, therefore, send the case back to him to re-try the case with reference to the remarks made above.

In regard to the next contention of the appellant, we find on reference to the record that, besides the two witnesses named by the Lower Appellate Court as witnesses, who testify to the fact of marriage-processions having, ere this, passed through this pathway, there are no less than three witnesses, Juggobundhoo, Rujonee Kant, and Goluck, who have sworn to the fact of marriage-processions of the plaintiff and others having passed through the disputed place; no less than four or five instances have been recited by these witnesses, one of which is so recent as six or seven years ago, and another so far back as 30 or 35 years, and the rest intervening between this period. These witnesses are not at all disbelieved by the second Court, for we find one of them, Juggobundhoo, is specially named by him in his judgment: "The other two are included in his judg-"ment as the remaining witnesses cited by "the plaintiff," whom he also believes, but whose evidence, according to his view of them, proves a different state of facts. We are of opinion that on this ground likewise the special appeal may be allowed, and the Subordinate Judge should be directed to re-consider the evidence of these witnesses as witnesses for the plaintiff supporting his allegation.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookoo Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Transfer of proceedings—XVI. of 1868—Costs—Section 5, Regula XXVII. of 1793.

Case No. 377 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order pas by the Subordinate Judge of Tipper dated the 18th July 1870.

Moonshee Aftabooddeen Ahmed (Decre holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Mohinee Mohun Doss (Judgment-debtor *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Do ga Mohun Dass* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Dass and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Respondent.

A Judge has no authority under Act XVI. of 186 order a Subordinate Judge to try proceedings in exe tion of a decree which are a portion of the original c suit tried by himself.

Where a decree-holder carries on such proceedings referred to a Subordinate Judge, until the result is favorable to himself, and then objects in appeal on t score of non-jurisdiction, he should be required to p all the costs incurred by the judgment-debtor in su proceedings before proceedings are instituted *de no*

Section 5, Regulation XXVII. of 1793, has no appli tion to bazaars which did not exist in 1793.

Jackson, J.—MOONSHEE Aftaboodde Ahmed, the decree-holder, has put forwa these proceedings in execution of his decr against Mohinee Mohun Doss, the judgmen debtor. He seeks to recover mesne-prof for a period of six years from July 1857 April 1862 under his decree of the 19 September 1860.

The application for execution was mad to the Judge of the district. He referre the execution to the Subordinate Judg The Subordinate Judge has taken evidenc on the point of mesne-profits, and has awar ed to the decree-holder a sum of Rupe 553-12-6. Against this decision this appe is preferred. The decree-holder is the appe lant. At the first hearing of the appeal, h took objection to the jurisdiction of the Sub ordinate Judge to carry on these executio proceedings under the order of the Judg On the other hand, it was contended for th respondent that the Judge had jurisdictio

der Act XVI. of 1868, to refer these proceedings for the decision of the Subordinate Judge; and that the appeal from that Subordinate Judge's decision, under those circumstances, did not lie to this Court, but to the Judge.

We think that the Judge had no authority under that Act to refer this case for the decision of the Subordinate Judge. That Act especially alludes to civil proceedings other than civil suits. These proceedings in this case in execution of the decree are a portion of the original civil suit. There is, therefore, no warrant for the contention that the Judge had authority under that Act to order these execution-proceedings to be tried by the Subordinate Judge.

For the respondent also it was contended that, under the provisions of Act VIII. of 1869, the Judge had authority to refer these proceedings to the Subordinate Judge. It appeared that these proceedings in execution had been carried on in the Court of the Subordinate Judge from the 22nd June 1867, the date of the application for execution to the Judge, and of its reference by him to the Subordinate Judge. There had been long inquiries as to mesne-profits by more than one Court Ameen, and probably large expenditure had been incurred on both sides. We, therefore, intimated to the decree-holder that, as he carried on these proceedings in a Court without jurisdiction without any objection until he reached the Appellate Court, and then raised his present objection apparently only because the result of the inquiry was unfavorable to him, we should require him to pay all the costs of the judgment-debtor incurred by him in such proceedings before ordering them to be instituted *de novo*. The decree-holder, thereupon, through his vakeel stated that he would not press those objections. It is, therefore, unnecessary to go on to decide that point, and we accordingly directed the vakeel to state any other objections which he might desire to urge against the inquiry before the Subordinate Judge. This has opened out the whole case upon the merits.

The contention of the decree-holder is that he is entitled to a much larger sum than has been decreed to him by the Subordinate Judge; that the Subordinate Judge has left out, according to his own showing, from the calculation the collections from a large bazaar which was held on the disputed land. The Subordinate Judge states it to be his opinion that the profits from this bazaar cannot be lawfully countenanced, as they are derived by means of illegal cesses contrary to Section 5, Regulation XXVII. of 1793. He, therefore, refuses to give the plaintiff such collections. We have referred to the Section of the Regulation which the Subordinate Judge has quoted, and we find that that Section applies to certain hauts and bazaars in existence in the year 1793. There seems to have been no allegation before the Subordinate Judge that this bazaar was in existence in that year; and there is no evidence whatever upon the record of any such fact. The Regulation in question is, therefore, inapplicable to the present case.

But it is urged by the vakeel for the respondent that, although there may be no direct law upon the point, still, as his client made all such collections forcibly and by means of extortion, and that he was, therefore, so far a wrong-doer, the decree-holder cannot require him to refund whatever money he may have obtained by such means. This argument might be good if there was any satisfactory evidence that these collections were made by wrong doings. The custom of making such collections from the vendors who attend the bazaar is nothing new in this country. It is recognized as one of the ordinary sources of profit derivable from the lands where such hauts and bazaars are, as is proved by the evidence in the case; and we see no reason why the decree-holder should not be indemnified for the loss which he has suffered by such profits having been kept away from him.

It remains, then, for us to consider what amount of mesne-profits should be awarded to the decree-holder on account of this bazaar. There is evidence upon the record, and it is therefore unnecessary to send the case back to the Subordinate Judge for his opinion or for his decision on the point. We have heard both sides upon that evidence. On the one hand, we have the report of an Ameen who had been twice upon the spot. He has come to the conclusion that the profits from the different mehals into which this bazaar is divided, for the six years for which wassilat is due to the decree-holder, amount to Rupees 4,293-8 annas. On the other hand, we have the statement of the defendant that he derived no profits whatever from this bazaar. He has put in certain jumma-bundee papers, but they omit altogether any profits from this bazaar. From the evidence it seems very certain that this is a very

large bazaar, in which every description of articles of food, such as *turkaree*, rice, fish, as well as salt and cattle, are sold. Evidence has been given as regards the profits arising from the sale of these different articles, and we see no reason whatever to distrust the evidence which has been given on the point, in the absence of any satisfactory evidence on the other side, as to the actual amount of profits derived by him. I need not say that I cannot believe that no profits have been derived. We think we ought to adopt the finding of the Ameen which is supported by evidence, and we accordingly award Rupees 4,190 for mesne-profits, with interest from this date to the date of payment. The respondent will pay the costs of this appeal, pleader's fees being assessed at 50 rupees.

Mookerjee, J.—I am also of opinion that the decision of the Subordinate Judge should be set aside. The objection to the hearing of the appeal having been waived by the pleader for the appellant and the record being complete, the whole case was gone into.

It appears that the question before us is the amount of wassilat which should be adjudged to the decree-holder for the years 1264 to 1269 on account of this bazaar. The Civil Court Ameen was twice deputed to ascertain the amount. In his first inquiry, he found a sum of 3,800 rupees as due to the decree-holder; but when the decree-holder objected to that amount on the ground that the Ameen has refused to examine certain witnesses who had leases of portions of this bazaar, the Ameen was again deputed to complete his inquiry—the result of which was that a sum of Rupees 4,190 was found due to the decree-holder for the six years. The Subordinate Judge, it appears, would have awarded this sum to the appellant; but being of opinion that the income from bazaars was an illegal income under Section 5, Regulation XXVII. of 1793, he refused to award to the decree-holder the sums found by the Ameen to have been collected from the several mehals of this bazaar, *viz.*, *turkaree*, fish, cattle, and salt, &c. On referring to the law quoted above, I find that it refers to bazaars existing at the time of the enactment, for which compensation for collections hitherto made by the owners of the haut, &c., were allowed by Government. The Section in question expressly states: "As the landholders are "to receive a compensation for those collec-"tions, they can have no right whilst such "compensation is continued to them, eit "to appropriate the goods for the tempo "use of which such collections were m "to any other purpose, or to levy any o "exactions whatever from the persons "may, in future, expose their goods the "for sale as heretofore, &c." Now, th is no suggestion that this bazaar was bazaar which existed in 1790, or that holder of it, by receiving any compen tion for his collections from Governme was precluded from making collections fr the vendors of the articles exposed for sale his land. The Section of the law, therefo appears to me to have no reference to baza of the kind for which wassilat is claim in this suit; consequently, no objection raised by the judgment-debtor on head. The Subordinate Judge was wro in refusing to the decree-holder the amo of collections that the judgment-debtor made during the period that he was wrongful possession of the bazaar.

It was then objected by the pleader for respondent that the Ameen was wrong finding the amount of wassilat solely fr the oral testimony of witnesses, without documentary evidence showing the e amount of the collections made by him the years in question. Now, we find the decree-holder has done what he co in this case, by examining persons who taken leases of the several mehals of bazaar, some of whom have produced th kubooleuts, hokumnamahs, and dakhil while the judgment-debtor has done nothi to assist the Court. He has, it is true, p duced some papers after the first inqu made by the Ameen, but these papers manifestly untrue, and were properly jected by the Ameen and the Court belo If parties who had the best means in th hands of showing exactly the amount collections made by them, by production the genuine records of collections, and amining the parties who either collected rent or paid them for the years for whi they are held accountable, will withho that evidence or produce false accounts lieu thereof, they have themselves only blame when the Court is obliged to go the evidence adduced by the decree-hold to find what was the amount of the colle tions made. This evidence may not be ve satisfactory; but in the absence of any pro given by the judgment-debtor to assist th Court in coming to a correct conclusion which was undoubtedly in his power to d the Court is obliged to rely on the evidence

decree-holder and the inquiry made by Ameen. I am also convinced on the evidence on the record that the mode of inquiry opted by the Ameen is a correct mode of quiry, and as such ought to be upheld. would decree this appeal, and fix the ailat at the sum stated by the Ameen in second inquiry, namely, 4,190 rupees.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

Execution—Sale—Limitation.

Case No. 317 of 1870.

cellaneous Appeal from an order passed the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, ated the 30th March 1870.

ojungona Dassee (Petitioner), *Appellant,*

versus

ona Mookhee Dassee (Opposite Party), *Respondent.*

Babo Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty for Appellant.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Respondent.

til the order is passed confirming a sale in execu-, the decree-holder must be considered to be execut- his decree, and limitation begins to run against him from the date of such order.

Jackson, J.—This is an appeal from the cision of the Subordinate Judge of Beer-oom, holding that further proceedings in ecution of a decree of the 21st July 1858 barred under the law of limitation. It pears execution of this decree was taken in 1863, and property belonging to the dgment-debtor was sold by auction on e 27th July 1863. The sale was confirmed the 15th September, and the sale-proceeds taken out by the decree-holder on the 18th September. No further proceedings were taken until the 29th August 1866. A question of limitation was then raised by the judgment-debtor, but it was decided against him on the 18th September 1867, and execution went on. Further proceedings are now being carried on, and the same objection is taken again which was taken previously on the subject of limitation; and the Subordinate Judge has ruled that he was in error in his former decision, and that limitation does bar any further execution, because the judgment-creditor did not apply for execution in 1866 within three years of the date on which the sale took place, the order confirming the sale being merely a *pro-formâ* order, no objection having been urged to the sale. In support of this view, the Subordinate Judge refers to a decision of this Court, Bengal Law Reports,* Volume IV., part 20, page 115.

On appeal, it is said that the former decision is final on the point between the parties, and that the proceedings in 1863 must be held to have been carried on until the sale was confirmed.

Even admitting that the question can be re-tried, I think that the decree-holder is within time. The decision alluded to by the Subordinate Judge supports his view of the law; but the late judgment of the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council, page 22, Volume XIV., Weekly Reporter, rules that proceedings in execution shall be considered as being *bonâ fide* carried on every day of the time and every hour of every day, until a final decision is passed upon any pending point. Here the question as to whether the sale would be confirmed or not was in doubt until the order upon it was passed. At any time until the month had elapsed, an objection might have been raised, the result of which might have been to set aside the sale as irregularly held, and this might have required the decree-holder to take fresh steps to have a regular sale. Until the order was passed confirming the sale, we hold, upon the judgment of Her Majesty's Privy Council, that the decree-holder was executing his decree. In this view, we think that the decree-holder is not barred by limitation. We, therefore, reverse the Subordinate Judge's decision, and remand the case to his Court for execution of the decree.

We think that the judgment-debtor should pay the costs of this Court (2 gold mohurs) as well as the costs of the Lower Court.

* 13 Weekly Reporter, page 38.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Contribution— Jurisdiction—Co-sharers — Joint decree — Specific liability.

Case No. 1700 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 16th May 1870, modifying a decision of the Moonsiff of Pundooah, dated the 17th February 1870.

Pitambur Chuckerbutty (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Bhyrubnath Paleet and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Appellant.

Baboos Khettronath Bose and *Kedarnath Chatterjee* for Respondents.

A suit to recover money alleged to have been paid in excess of plaintiff's share of rent on account of his co-tenant, was held to be a suit for contribution, and as such not cognizable by the Small Cause Court.

Such excess payment having once been pleaded as a set-off in a suit for rent, and urged under the authority of a letter of assignment which the defendant (present plaintiff) failed to prove, it was held that on that ground his suit to recover the payment in question should have been dismissed.

In a suit for contribution, where a joint decree cannot be passed, the specific liability of each co-sharer must be, not only alleged, but clearly established.

Kemp, J.—THIS was a suit to recover certain moneys alleged to have been paid to the zemindar by the plaintiff in excess of the share of plaintiff, and on account of defendant No. 2, Pitambur, who is the special appellant to this Court.

The alleged payments were made on account of the rents for the years from 1272 to 1275. The putnee lot "Chacheetarra" is owned by the following sharers:—

	As.
Plaintiff	2
Defendant No. 2, special appellant	4
Defendant No. 6	4
Defendants 3, 4, and 5 ...	6
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The plaintiff based his demand for c tribution as against the defendant N upon a barrat or assignment, by which alleges, he was authorized by the defen No. 2 to pay the sum claimed. It is ther alleged that, in a suit for the rent of dur-putnee held by the plaintiff, which brought by the defendant No. 2 as ag the plaintiff, the latter demanded to se the alleged payments made by him on count of the defendant No. 2's shar the putnee as against the rent claimed; the Revenue Authorities, holding that plaintiff had not established the set-off, allowed the claim.

The first Court found that the barr assignment was proved, and gave the pl iff a decree in full.

The Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, decision which is not very intelligible, remarks that the suit "was of the S "Cause Court class; but as it was for a "above 500 rupees, it was capable "going on to special appeal;" we quote very words of the Subordinate Judge.

The main pleas taken by the defend No. 2 before the Subordinate Judge w *1st.*—That the Civil Court had no juris tion to try a claim for rent; and that, as plaintiff's plea of payment had been rejec in the Revenue Court, the suit could proceed. *2nd.*—The defendant denied assignment empowering the plaintiff to the rents for him to the zemindar. *3rd* That the defendant had paid rent in exc of his share in the putnee.

The Subordinate Judge says: "T case is one for adjustment of accou and therefore the Civil Court has juris tion." The Subordinate Judge, after ting out the shares of the various defenda in the putnee, finds "that the plaintiff a the defendant Kalee Pershad had paid t rent due on account of their shares; but t the defendant No. 2, Pitambur, and t other 6-annas shareholders paid alte nately; that is to say, Pitambur, defenda had paid the "shushmai" kist, while th 6-annas shareholders paid the "*doazdu* mai" kist. The Subordinate Judge fin that "the 10-annas sharers—*i. e.*, Pitamb "who owns 4 annas, and the other defenda "who own 6 annas, or together 10 ann "—instead of paying the rent for which th "10-annas share is liable, had paid the re "for an 8 annas 13 gundas 1 cowrie

krant share only, and that the plaintiff had paid the rent to the zemindar for the difference between 10 annas and 8 annas 13 gundas 1 cowrie 1 krant, or for 1 anna 6 gundas 2 cowries 2 krant; that it was, therefore, but fair and just in this Court of equity and good conscience that the plaintiff should get back the sum on account of the 1 anna 6 gundas 2 cowries 2 krants paid on defendant's account to the zemindar, since he, the plaintiff, has been made liable to the defendant Pitambur, for the rents of the dur-putnee under the decree of the Revenue Court." We have again quoted the words of the Subordinate Judge. The Subordinate observes further that "he regrets he cannot concur with the first Court in considering the deed of assignment, said to have been given by the defendant Pitambur, to be a legal document, it not bearing a stamp, and not having been satisfactorily proved;" adder "that this plea had been already set up with regard to the rents of 1271, and had been rejected."

Further, the Subordinate Judge remarks that "the wording of the barrat brings doubt on it." The Subordinate Judge concludes his judgment by saying that, although "he cannot concur with the Moonsiff in the opinion that the barrat has been proved, still he feels fully convinced and satisfied in mind that plaintiff paid the dur-putnee rents to the zemindar for the benefit of the defendant No. 2, Pitambur, and that the other defendants *i. e.*, the 6-annas sharers, had been correctly brought under the head of defendants owing to the understanding, as seen from the defendant's dakhilas, that Pitambur should pay the 'shushmai' kist, and the other defendants the 'doazdummai' kist, and both are in laches with regard to 1 anna 6 gundas 1 cowrie 1 krant;" he, the Subordinate Judge, therefore, saw no reason to interfere with the Moonsiff's decision against Pitambur, defendant No. 2; the other defendants to pay their own costs.

Several grounds have been taken in special appeal, but before deciding them we may observe that the Subordinate Judge is wrong in saying that this is a suit of the "Small Cause Court class." It is clearly a suit for contribution, and it has been held by the late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes Peacock, that such a suit is not cognizable by the Small Cause Court.

The 1st ground is that, as the suit of the plaintiff is based upon a letter of assignment, which the Lower Appellate Court held to be not proved, the suit ought to have been dismissed.

The 2nd ground is that, the payments, if admitted, were voluntary or officious payments; that the plaintiff has failed to show that there was any pressure upon him or any risk to his share which would justify such payments.

The 3rd ground is that as the question of whether the plaintiff had made these payments on account of the share of the defendant, special appellant, was determined by the Collector in the rent-suit adversely to the plaintiff, such question cannot be reopened.

The 4th ground is that there is no proof or evidence that the plaintiff made any payment on account of the defendant's share.

The 5th ground is that the defendant has proved that he paid more than he is liable to pay on account of his 4-annas share.

We think that the 1st, 2nd, and 5th grounds are good grounds, and that the decision of the Subordinate Judge must be reversed.

It is clear that the plaintiff based his suit on the letter of assignment empowering him, as he alleges, to pay to the zemindar a portion of the rent due by the appellant. The Lower Appellate Court holds that this deed has not been proved. We may also observe that this plea of payment on account of the rents, or a portion of the rents, of defendant's share by the plaintiff was rejected by the Revenue Court in the suit for rent brought by the defendant No. 2 against the plaintiff, in which suit the plaintiff pleaded a set-off under this very deed, and failed to prove it. We think that the plaintiff's suit ought to have been dismissed on this ground, but we proceed to dispose of the other points.

On the second ground, we are of opinion that these payments, even admitting they were made, were voluntary officious payments. There is no evidence, nor has the special respondent's pleader been able to show us that there was any pressure upon the plaintiff to pay on account of any share but his own.

There was no decree, no sale impending, nothing which would justify his paying on.

the score, that, unless he did so, his own share might be jeopardized—Volume XII., Weekly Reporter, page 468.

On the third ground, though we do not think the plaintiff in this suit is concluded by the decision of the revenue authorities, there can be no doubt that the adverse finding of the Revenue Court is a strong piece of evidence against the truth of the plaintiff's claim.

We take the fourth and fifth grounds together. It is clear from the dakhilas which Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee, in the course of the argument, submitted to our consideration, and which are not disputed, that the defendant has paid more than the rent due on account of his 4-annas share. The plaintiff has failed to prove the barrat, or assignment authorizing him, as he alleges, to make payments to the zemindar on account of defendant's share in the putnee and in excess of plaintiff's own share; and it is further established that the defendant has paid, if anything, more than what he was liable for as a 4-anna sharer of the putnee. It is worthy of remark that the defendants 3, 4, and 5, the 6-anna sharers, admit in their written statement that defendant No. 2 has paid all that he is liable to pay as a 4-anna sharer: they further state that plaintiff may possibly have made payments on account of their 6-anna share, but that they are entitled to set off payments made by them on account of the plaintiff. However, the defendants 3, 4, and 5 have not been held liable to the plaintiff, and they are not before the Court. In a suit of this description in which a joint decree cannot be passed, the specific liability of each co-sharer must not only be alleged, but must be clearly established.

We reverse the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit with costs in both Courts bearing interest.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble Louis S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Procedure—Evidence—Appellate Court.

Case No. 1470 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Additional Judge of Tirhoot, da the 31st March 1870, affirming a decis of the Subordinate Judge of that D trict, dated the 2nd March 1867.

Lalla Juggessur Sahoy (Plaintiff), *Appella*

versus

Gopal Lall (one of the Defendants), *Respondent.*

Mr. W. A. Montriou for Appellant.

The Advocate-General for Respondent.

In a suit to recover possession of a share of an es on the ground of purchase at a sale in execution, wh share was alleged to have been knocked down by Collector to another party in an execution-sale un Act XI. of 1859, where it was found that the plaint purchase had not been *bonâ-fide*, the right, title, interest of the decree-holder having been previou purchased *benamee* by the judgment-debtor himself

HELD that the real purchaser was the judgment-de or, and that the holder of the rent-decree could prope sell either the estate or the said right, title, and interes

It is the duty of the Judge of an Appellate Court allow the parties or their pleaders to submit the e dence to him at the hearing in open Court, and to ma upon the evidence so submitted every comment, a found upon it every argument they may think neces sary.

Where the decision of a case involves issues of fa and the first Court has gone fully into the evidence, a recorded its finding and decision, if the Appellate Cou agrees with the conclusions of the Court below, the A pellate Court is not obliged by law to state in detail th reasons previously recited, in which it concurs.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff in this ca sued to recover possession of a share in certain estate, alleging that he had purchase that share at a sale in execution of a decre obtained by one Oodit Narain against th owner Sooambur Singh; that he had entere into possession under his purchase, but tha under a sale held by the Collector in execu tion of a decree under Act X. of 1859 (suc sale being held under the provisions of Ac XI. of the same year), the same estate ha been knocked down to another party, an thereupon the Collector, on the application of that party, one Gopal Lall, had violentl and illegally dispossessed the plaintiff, and he thereupon brought his suit.

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The trial of this suit appears to me to ave been unnecessarily complicated, and I gret to say that the parties have been put great inconvenience and expense, by the stinacy and disobedience of orders exhi-ted by the Additional Judge to whom the se has been twice remanded on special peal by orders of this Court. On the ird trial, however, the Judge has gone to the merits of the case, and has affirmed decision of the Subordinate Judge dis-sing the suit of the plaintiff.

Putting aside various questions which ve been raised in the trial of this suit, as I nk unnecessarily, the ground on which the has been dismissed appears to be shortly —that, in consequence of the nature of transaction in execution of the decree which Oodit Narain was originally plaint-and Sooambur Singh defendant, the sale execution and the consequent purchase this plaintiff appear to have been merely orable, unreal transactions, and that the ntiff never acquired any title whatever ny estate.

This decision has been impugned on, it be said, three grounds. One, that the *ratio idendi* on which the Judge has proceed-does not sufficiently dispose of the case, the plaintiff is really entitled to recover; ond, that there has been no proper deci-n by the Judge on the merits, as he has ply adopted the opinion of the Court w without stating his own; and, thirdly, the Judge has committed an irregularity the trial of the appeal by refusing to hear evidence and the comments of the aders upon that evidence in the usual proper way.

It will be most convenient to dispose of latter ground first. This ground of ap-l is based upon an affidavit on the part of agent or so-called agent of the appellant, o deposes that he was present in Court on day on which this appeal was called on hearing, and that in his presence the ge refused to allow the evidence to be d, and the vakeels of both parties to ment upon it after the general argu-nt of the case was heard. Against this re is the counter-affidavit on the part of erson who is said to be the son of the pondent, and he positively swears that, far from refusing to hear the evidence d as alleged, the Judge did hear the idence discussed and commented upon the usual way.

Now, without going into the question of the credibility of these two statements, respectively, it seems sufficient to say that an affidavit, upon which we should come to the conclusion that the Judge had so far neglected or misconceived his duty in the way stated, ought to be perfectly clear and exhaustive, should leave no doubt upon the subject, and should exclude the possibility of the Judge having done that which it was his duty to do; but the affidavit of the agent is not so. It only states that on a particu-lar day the Judge stopped the reading of the evidence. But that is not the day on which the Judge gave his judgment; and, consequently, it is quite possible that the statements made in it may be all true, and yet that the Judge did afterwards hear the evidence and pronounce his judgment upon it. I should be extremely sorry to believe that the Judge of an Appellate Court should take the course which he is alleged in the statement to be in the habit of taking in hearing appeal-cases, namely, to refuse to allow evidence to be read before him in open Court, and made the subject of comment by the parties or their pleaders. but instead of that merely to read the evidence in private. No doubt, there are cases, especially com-plicated cases, in which it is desirable that the Judge should have an opportunity of considering the evidence at leisure before giving judgment; but there can be no doubt whatever that it is the duty of the Appellate Court to allow the parties or their pleaders to submit the evidence to him at the hearing in open Court, and to make upon the evi-dence so submitted every comment, and found upon it every argument they might think necessary. This ground, in my opinion, is not made out.

Then as to the other ground, that the Judge has simply adopted the observation of the first Court, that is equally unfounded. Where the decision of the case involves the determination of issues of fact, and the determination of those issues is based upon evidence, if the Court of first instance has gone fully into that evidence, and has record-ed its finding and decision upon it, I think that, when the Appellate Court agrees with the conclusions of the Court below upon those facts, for the reasons stated by that Court, it is not the intention of the law that the Judge of the Appellate Court should be obliged to state in detail the very same reasons which had previously been recited, and in which he concurs. I do not mean

to say that there is any general rule, nor do I mean to say that in this case it would not have been well, under the particular circumstances (namely, of two previous remands), if the Judge had stated carefully and clearly the reasons upon which his decision was based; but I do mean to say that the decision which he has now recorded is one legally sufficient and one on which no ground of special appeal can lie.

We now come to the consideration of the reasons on which the Judge has thrown the plaintiff out of Court. The Judge in effect I understand to have found, as the Subordinate Judge in effect also finds, that the alleged purchase by the plaintiff in execution of a decree against Sooambur Singh was not, in fact, a purchase by the plaintiff at all; that the execution against Sooambur Singh was not a *bond-fide* genuine execution, but that previously the right, title, and interest of the decree-holder in that decree had been purchased *benamee* on behalf and for the benefit of Sooambur Singh himself; and that the sale which took place in pursuance thereof was a sham sale, the person furnishing the funds and acting throughout being Sooambur Singh himself. Probably it would be held in such a case that, by the purchase on behalf of Sooambur Singh and with his money, the decree had, in fact, been extinguished; but it is sufficient to say that by the findings the plaintiff did not acquire anything, did not buy the title to this property. The person who really purchased was Sooambur Singh himself; and consequently the person who obtained the decree in the rent-suit could properly sell either the estate, or the right, title, and interest of Sooambur Singh in that estate. That being so, I think the Courts below were quite right in dismissing his suit.

And I should say that the finding has not been impugned on the ground that there was no evidence to support it There was evidence, and the Court below found upon that evidence in favor of the defendant. I do not think we are in a position to say that it was not justified in coming to that conclusion upon that evidence. What our own conclusion would have been if we heard the case as a regular appeal is another question. I think the special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

It was remarked, and with some plausibility, by the learned Counsel who appeared for the appellant, that the plaintiff had been, by the wrongful act of the Collector, unfa ly placed in the disadvantageous positio plaintiff, whereas, but for that violent improper proceeding, his client would been in the position of a defendant. On it seems to me sufficient to say that, if case was so the plaintiff had only to a himself of the remedy provided by Sec 15, Act XIV. of 1859, and to bring his as a simple possessory suit. But he tho fit to come into Court with a civil suit the usual way, and therefore undertook prove the title which he advanced, and m take the consequences.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 9th December 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Ch der Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Notice of enhancement—Ryots—Middlem

Case No. 1412 of 1870 under Act X. of 18

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, d the 14th April 1870, affirming a decis of the Deputy Collector of Busseerh dated the 18th October 1869.

Kalee Prosunno Ghose and another (Defe ants), *Appellants,*

versus

Hurish Chunder Dutt and others (Plaintiff *Respondents.*

Baboo Oopendro Chunder Bose for Appellants.

Baboos Kalee Prosunno Dutt and *Khettr Mohun Mookerjee* for Respondents.

Where a party who was not personally a cultivator the land, but held a large jumma with a number of ry below him, was treated in a notice of enhancement un Clause 1, Section 17, Act X. of 1859, as an ordinary ry having a right of occupancy, it was held that the not was not on that account illegal or informal.

Jackson, J.—THIS is a suit for enhance ment of rent and for arrears of rent at a enhanced rate. Both the Lower Courts hav decreed the enhanced rate, and a special ap peal has been preferred from the decision of the Lower Appellate Court.

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A great many points are taken in special peal. In the first place, it is said that the ice is bad in law, because it does not dis-ctly describe the status of the ryot; and because every word of the first clause of ction 17, Act X. of 1859, is not included it. On this point we find the facts of the e are these: The defendant admittedly is nant holding without any written engage-nt. The notice was served upon him ting him as an ordinary ryot having a ht of occupancy, and called upon him to the rent at a rate paid by the neighbour-ryots under Clause 1, Section 17 of Act of 1859. On the trial it appeared that he not exactly of the class of ordinary ryots ing rights of occupancy, but that he held ery large *jumma* with a number of ryots ow him, and that he was not a personal tivator of the land. The Court, therefore, ted him as a *ganteedar*, and required him pay the same rate of rent which the *nteedars* in the village pay, namely, Rupees annas per beegah. It is now attempted be made out upon this that the defendant a *ganteedar*. But because he has been wed to pay *ganteedaree* rate, it does not any means follow that he comes under denomination of *ganteedar*. There seems be nothing informal or illegal in the notice ich has been served upon him.

Then it is said that there is no evidence show that the *ganteedars* of the village y Rupees 1-4 per beegah. We have had the evidence read out to us, and we find t there is certainly evidence to show that t is the rate generally paid by the gantee-rs. The plaintiff certainly claimed very ch larger rate, but the Courts have acted y properly under the circumstances, look-g to the manner of the holding of the de-ndant, to make him pay the *ganteedaree umma*.

It is also said on special appeal that the tnesses do not mention the number of bee-hs of each description of plots of land in e possession of the defendant. It is true t the witnesses do not do so. But I think t it is impossible to obtain any person to pose that there are so many *beegahs* of ch class of land in the possession of his ighbour. It is a matter which may possib-y be known to the defendant himself, and is for him to show the number of beegahs each plot. But it does not follow that ere is no evidence upon this point. In e first place, there is the allegation of the laintiff which is not denied by the defend-nt; and in the second place, this allegation has been enquired into by an Ameen who went to the spot, and measured the land.

Another objection taken on special appeal is that the Court below ought to have decided the point, whether the petitioner, defendant, was holding the excess area as a tenant or as a trespasser. Reading this sentence as put down in the grounds of special appeal, it seems to me quite unintelligible. But it is said here that it was intended thereby to allege that the defendant had claimed certain lands as belonging to other jummas and to his lakheraj land, and that that question had not been inquired into. We find, however, that it has been thoroughly looked into, and that that land has been released, and no rent has been fixed for it.

An objection was also taken in the matter that no decision has been passed with regard to the uniform payment of rent. But it appears that in a former appeal before the Judge, a decision was passed upon the point of uniform payment of rent, and the present Judge, therefore, very properly considered it unnecessary to inquire into the point any further. There seems to be, therefore, no ground for interfering with the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court, either in the matter of rate or in the matter of notice.

But there still remains one question, *viz.*, as to the exact quantity of land in the possession of the defendant. An issue was raised on this question through the whole of this litigation, the plaintiff claiming that the land should be measured with a rod of 80 cubits, the defendant alleging that it ought to be measured with a rod of 90 cubits. The Judge says that it is not necessary to inquire into this point, because as he says no rent is claimed for any excess area. It seems to us, however, that it is impossible to decide this case without determining this point, because it is impossible to determine the number of *beegahs* in the defendant's possession without first determining it. There is evidence on both sides, not only oral, but also documentary, as to the size of the rod prevalent in this part of the country. All that evidence must be considered in coming to the conclusion as to what size of beegah must pay rent at the rate of Rupees 1-4 annas. This point ought to have been tried by the Lower Court; but as the plaintiff is willing to take the enhanced rate decreed at the larger beegah, it is not necessary to remand the case. A decree will be drawn up in this office, calculating the number of beegahs in the possession of the defendant by a rod of 90 cubits; and also

deducting the *puteet* lands for which the plaintiff seems to have claimed no rent.

The decree of the Lower Courts will be modified to that extent.

Parties will bear their own costs in this suit.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 19th December 1870.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Death of appellant—Representation—Letters of administration.

Case No. 54 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Sarun, dated the 28th December 1869.

Munnoo Lall (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Saheb Perhlad Sein (Plaintiff) and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Kalee Prosunno Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry for Respondents.

An appeal having come on for hearing, the death of the appellant was intimated to the Court, and the case allowed to stand over. It was again set down for hearing nearly six months after, and an order made that it should be brought up a fortnight later. On its being called up again, a petition was presented on the part of the Administrator-General for a month's postponement. on the ground that, although letters of administration had been granted, the requisite funds had not been raised.

HELD that, the appeal having been filed and the vakeel instructed and paid, the Administrator-General would have been allowed to appear, although regular letters had not been taken out; but as the application had not been made within reasonable time, the appeal was dismissed.

Jackson, J.—THE decision of the Zillah Judge in this case was passed on the 28th December 1869. The appeal was preferred on the 4th April of the present year. The case, it seems, came on for hearing on the 18th July last, when it stood over for this, amongst other reasons, that the death of the appellant was then intimated to the Court. The case was again set down for hearing on the 5th of this month, and an order was made—"Let this case be brought up on "19th instant, and by that time, if no one "pears to represent the appellant, the "peal will be dismissed." Now, the c being called up again to-day, a petition presented on the part of the Administra General, who applies that the case may st over again for one month on the gro that, although the Court has granted let of administration upon the application the parties made so long ago as the m of August last, the requisite funds have been raised, and the Administrator-Gene does not find himself in a position to The regular letters of administration have been taken out, but an order has been gran

Now, in this case, the appeal has b actually filed, and the vakeel, I understa has received his instruction and also his f and we should have had no hesitation permitting the Administrator-General to pear in this case, although regular letters administration have not been taken out; as it appears to me that the application not been made within reasonable time, any person claiming to be the legal rep sentative of the deceased appellant, I th the appeal ought to be dismissed with co chargeable to the estate of the deceased.

Glover, J.—I concur.

The 20th December 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Act X. of 1859—Execution-sale—Revenue Courts—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 119 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed the Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated 22nd March 1870.

Tekaet Bhao Narain Deo (Defen lant), *Appellant,*

versus

The Court of Wards on behalf of the estate the late Maharajah Ram Narain Deo (D fendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee an *Juggodanund Mookerjee* for Respondent.

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alls into question the doctrine laid down by a Divi- Bench at page 147 of the Special Number of the kly Reporter, *viz.*, that when a sale has taken place order of the Collector in execution of a decree under X. of 1859, a civil suit for the purpose of question- the regularity and propriety of the proceeding is n away, as well as anything in the shape of an al.

here circumstances indicate not merely irregularity, irregularity brought about by the contrivance of decree-holder, the Civil Court has jurisdiction to he sale aside, and is right in doing so.

n making a decree to set aside such an execution- the Court is bound to make provision for the ee-holder's claim being satisfied.

Jackson, J.—In our opinion, the decision of Lower Court ought, upon the main part of o be affirmed.

he property to which the suit relates, ch is a mokurruree granted to Maharajah Bahadoor Narain Deo, who is now a atic, may be broadly stated to have been to sale and sold by the Collector in exe- on of a decree against these Maharanees, he committee of the person of the lunatic, arrears of rent. The defendant, Tekaet o Narain Deo, was the purchaser of that ee, and he sued out execution, making application against the Maharanees and against the Court of Wards as manager the estate; but the property which the urt was moved to sell was described as a kurruree tenure belonging to the Maha- nees as custodians of the lunatic Rajah.

The property so described was ordered to sold on the 14th September 1868. On 7th of the month, a week before the e specified, a petition was put in on part the Court of Wards, objecting, amongst er things, that the Maharanees had no ht, title, or interest in the mokurruree in estion, and praying, therefore, that the operty might not be sold.

This objection, it seems, was overruled, d the property was brought to sale on the h September; but on that date it seems not a single bidder for the property ap- ared, and on a verbal representation from mooktear of the decree-holder that his ent, who had been in attendance up to that e, had gone to another place, and would end afterwards, the Collector appears to ve ordered that the sale should be postpon- d until the 21st September, and of that stponed sale no notification was issued, t on that day the property was put up for le again. The decree-holder and his mook- ar, and one other person named Tikum Lall, ppear to have bid for the property, and it as knocked down for the sum of 6,100 upees.

It appears that the mokurruree was origin- ally granted upon a bonus or consideration of 14,500 rupees; and the superior landlord, who was a witness in this case, Sham Lall Mitter, deposed that, to the best of his know- ledge and belief, the value of the under-ten- ure in question was 70 or 80 or 90 thousand rupees.

Two questions have been raised before us on this appeal. The first is whether the suit was cognizable by the Civil Court, as the defendant maintains it was not; and the se- cond, whether any ground for setting aside the sale has been made out; and we have been referred to Sutherland's Full Bench Rulings, otherwise called the Special Number of the Weekly Reporter, page 147, and to a Ruling of the Full Bench of th's Court in V. Weekly Reporter, page 20, Act X. Rulings.

The first-mentioned of the cases goes the length of laying down that, when a sale has taken place by order of the Collector in execution of a decree under Act X. of 1859, by the terms of Section 150, a civil suit for the purpose of questioning the regularity and propriety of the proceed- ings in such sale is expressly taken away; and the Judges also point out that by the terms of Act X. anything in the shape of an appeal is also taken away in such a case. So that, if by mistake or in- advertence a Collector should have im- properly sold property of the very highest value in execution of a decree of the small- est amount, the person whose property is so sold is without remedy of any kind what- ever, unless he should be able to establish that there has been such fraud in obtaining the decree or carrying out process of exe- cution that the Civil Court would be en- titled to set aside the sale on that ground.

The Full Bench decision, which we have referred to in V. Weekly Reporter, confirmed generally the view taken in that other case; but it expressly ruled that in case of fraud the Civil Court is competent to interfere.

We confess that, if it were necessary to the decision of this case, we should be dis- posed to invite further consideration by the Full Bench of the doctrine laid down in the case reported in the Special Number of the Weekly Reporter. It appears to us little short of monstrous to hold that in such cir- cumstances as we have stated, the order of the Collector bringing to sale perhaps a most valuable immoveable property should be absolutely final beyond the reach of

revision or appeal, and beyond being questioned in the Civil Courts. But we do not think it necessary to raise that question, because it seems to us that the circumstances of this case bring the matter fully within the ruling of the Full Bench.

We may assume that the decree in this case was obtained correctly. The parties we have now to do with were not the parties in that suit; but the circumstances under which this property was brought to sale indicate what may be called fraud, such as would entitle the Court to set aside the proceedings. This property was put up for sale under the description of a mokurruree tenure belonging to the Maharanees. The blot in this description was pointed out by the Court of Wards. It was open to the parties then, and it was open to the Collector, to set this right by amending the notification and giving this property its correct description. That they omitted to do, and the result of that is, we think, pretty plainly evidenced by what took place on the 14th September, on which day no bidder attended at the sale. It cannot be believed that, if the property had been fairly described, not a single person would have attended to purchase what appears to be a most valuable estate. And when we look to the sequel of what took place on that date, we find that a mooktear of the decree-holder went to the Collector and obtained an order, which was not proclaimed and notified, postponing the sale for a week, and on that day the decree-holder himself, the mooktear of the decree-holder, and a third person of whose entity, solvency, and position we have no information whatever attended before the Collector, and the decree-holder bought this property for what seems to be a most inadequate price. Under these circumstances, it seems quite clear that there had been contrivance, and what we may call fraud, practised in order to have this property sold below its real value.

A question has been raised as to whether the plaintiff had given evidence as to what the value of the property was. It was objected that the witness Sham Lall Mitter, who stated his belief as to the value of the property, did not disclose what his means of knowledge were, and did not appear to be exactly informed regarding the returns or the profits of the mokurruree. But it seems to us very unnecessary to ask a witness, who is speaking of a portion of his own property, how he comes to know what the value of his property i about what it is; and it is also quite ceivable he may not know precisely profit the tenant may be making, nor he in his deposition in this case preten describe the exact value of the prop He gives a wide margin, and states it t somewhere between 70 and 90 thou rupees.

Finally, it was suggested that the price at which the property was sold not appear to be the result of the irreg ity. We think it was fairly the re The circumstances which we have alr stated appear to be so clear on that p that it is unnecessary to refer to them a But it seems to us that not merely was t irregularity, but irregularity brought a by the contrivance of the decree-hol Therefore, we think it clear that the Court had jurisdiction, and was righ ordering the sale to be set aside. T there are other circumstances which ought not to lose sight of. It is clear the Court of Wards have been very served, and have acted in a mistaken m ner throughout. There can be no do we think, that, on the rights of the and in the interest of the lunatic, the C of Wards ought, on receiving intima that the decree was outstanding, and the party was proceeding to execute, have put in the amount due under decree. That would have put a stop to these proceedings, would have saved parties much unnecessary expense. avoided this litigation.

We think the objections taken by Court of Wards under the advice of person who acted for them were not the objections which ought to have been tak but were of a technical, and we may frivolous, character. We also think the Court of Wards ought, in bringing suit, to have stated their willingness to equity towards the purchaser, by way repaying the amount which he had paid purchase-money, and also to have satisf the decree. Further, we think that Court below, in making a decree in fa of the plaintiff, was bound to have ma provision for the decree-holder's claim be satisfied.

Under these circumstances, although decree of the Court below was in the ma right, it cannot be denied that the defend was justified in bringing the present appe

'or these reasons, we think, we must affirm he judgment of the Court below, but each arty must bear their own costs.

The purchase-money must be repaid with nterest at 12 per cent. per annum, that being e rate of interest allowed in the decree; d the plaintiff may satisfy the decree for nt before the estate is released from atchment.

The 4th January 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Review—Limitation.

Poresh Nath Roy, *Petitioner,*

versus

Gopal Kristo Deb and others, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Woomesh Chunder Banerjee for Petitioner.

aboos Romanath Bose and *Grish Chunder Ghose* for Opposite Party.

he time during which an application for review is ding is not to be taken into account within the 90 ys allowed for appeal.

Jackson, J.—We think the decision of Judge of Sylhet on the appeal of Poresh ath Roy, refusing to admit the appeal, is trary to law, and must be set aside. The cision against which Poresh Nath Roy peal'd is dated the 28th December 1869. r a review of that decision, Poresh Nath y filed an application on the 6th January 70. An order was passed rejecting that plication on the 4th April 1870. Poresh ath Roy thereupon appealed to the Judge the 21st April 1870. The ground upon ich the Judge has rejected the application not clearly stated in his order. He states at, if the application had been made on the th, he might have admitted it; but as it was ade on the 21st, he rejected it.

We do not understand in what way the petitioner would have been benefited by making an application on the 14th instead of on the 21st. In either case, if the time during which the application for review was pending be deducted, Poresh Nath Roy was within time. If, on the other hand, that time is to be taken into account, Poresh Nath Roy is beyond time.

It has been decided by a Full Bench of 14 Judges (to be found in II. Weekly Reporter, page 36), and which was afterwards followed by another Full Bench of this Court* (to be found at page 23 of the Revenue, Civil, and Criminal Reporter of the 31st May 1867), that the time during which the application for a review is pending is not to be taken into account within the 90 days allowed for appeal. Following these decisions, Poresh Nath Roy was within time in presenting his appeal to the Judge. The Judge must, therefore, admit the appeal, and pass orders upon it. The order rejecting it is set aside.

The 10th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Mesne-profits—Valuation of claim—Execution.

Case No. 227 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of Jessore, dated the 4th June 1870.

Gooroo Doss Roy and another (Judgment-debtors), *Appellants,*

versus

Bungshee Dhur Sein and others (Decree-holders), *Respondents.*

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* 7 W. R., *Civil,* p. 529.

Baboos Ashootosh Dhur and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellants.

Mr. J. W. B. Money and *Baboo Sreenath Doss* for Respondents.

Where a plaintiff includes a suit for mesne-profits in a suit for possession, he is bound to value his claim at what he knows to be its real amount, and cannot be allowed, in the course of a mere inquiry into the amount of damages after decree, to depart from the claim made by his plaint, and set up what is substantially a new and distinct claim.

Norman, C. J.— * * * *
* * * * * * * *

Now, the claim in the plaint, Rupees 8,000 for the mesne-profits of ten years and eight months, is at the rate of Rupees 750 a year. The Subordinate Judge allows to the plaintiff for wassilat for 10 years Rupees 44,684, or, in other words, wassilat at the rate of Rupees 4,450 a year.

The disproportion is the more striking when we find that the whole difference is in respect of the profits of a part only of the land, *viz.*, 240 beegahs out of 415, for which an estimate has been made and allowed by the Subordinate Judge at the rate of Rupees 4,000 a year, or nearly 17 rupees a beegah.

We have no doubt but that *the general rule* is that a plaintiff is not entitled to greater damages than he has claimed in his plaint. To that an exception has been allowed in the case of suits for possession with mesne-profits, where the plaintiff has sometimes no means of knowing accurately what has been realized by the defendant during the period of his dispossession and prior to the suit. Instances of this will be found in VI. Weekly Reporter, Miscellaneous, page 28; IX. Weekly Reporter 218; XIV. Weekly Reporter 82. Again, a plaintiff has no means of judging how long the suit may be protracted, or what will be realized by the plaintiff while the suit is so pending. The 11th Section of the Court Fees Act, VII. of 1870, provides for such cases. But Mr. Money contended that, where a plaintiff includes a claim for mesne-profits in his suit for possession, he is not bound to value his claim at what he knows to be its real amount, but may fix it as low as he pleases—say at ten or fifty rupees; and at the trial or in execution of the decree, if the mesne-profits shown to amount to a very much larger sum, even to lakhs of rupees, he would be entitled to claim a decree for that larger amount on paying the stamp-duty as provided by that Section.

It appears to us that Mr. Money's argument is not tenable. The plaintiff's claim which the defendants were called on to answer in the suit, with respect to which the issues were fixed, and the contest took place, is that set forth in his plaint. By the 7th Section of the Court Fees Act, Clause 1, he is bound to pay a stamp-fee on the amount claimed by him.

We think that a plaintiff cannot be allowed, in that which is a mere inquiry into the amount of damages after decree, to depart from the claim made by his plaint, and set up what is substantially a new and distinct claim.

In the present case, it is in evidence that the ten khadas were used by the plaintiffs as khâmâr land at the period of their dispossession. The plaintiffs must have known very well what were the profits of the land at that time. The plaintiffs, for some reason or other, in their plaint chose to state the mesne-profits of the whole land at Rupees 8,002 for ten years, and in making that claim they knew very well what they were about. The claim now made of Rupees 22,511 for rather more than half of the land for seven years before the suit, to say the least, savours of extravagance. No explanation has been given of the reasons which induced the plaintiffs to fix the estimate of mesne-profits at 750 rupees a year in their plaint. No suggestion is made that the plaintiffs have discovered any facts not previously known to them, or acquired any additional knowledge of the value of the property after the filing of their plaint, which should have induced them to put forward the larger claim at a late stage of the case. It has been suggested that the plaintiffs' object probably was to prevent an appeal to the Privy Council. If that be so, if with that object they deliberately put forward their claim as a claim for Rupees 8,002 only, we think they ought not to be allowed to enlarge their claim after they have gained their object, as they have done by procuring the High Court to refuse to admit an appeal.

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The 17th January 1871.

Present:

ie Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

ndoo widow—Ancestral property—Reversioners—Alienation—Maintenance.

Case No. 156 of 1870.

gular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 21st April 1870.

Mussamut Bhugobutty Dayee (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Chowdhry Bholanath Thakoor and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellant.

boos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee and *Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Respondents.

Also the cross-appeal No. 169 of 1870.

had, by the *Kirtima* form, adopted his nephew G, then, shortly before his death, executed an ekrarnah, whereby he directed that, excepting a portion he bestowed in absolute gift upon his daughter S, remainder of his property, moveable and immoveable, was to be enjoyed for her lifetime by his wife C, after her death to become the absolute property of adopted son. As the parties lived in the Mithila ntry, the adopted son concurred in the devise, and cuted an instrument of corresponding tenor, with difference that it allowed the widow to make necessary and reasonable expenses. The adopted son predeceased the widow, who had also been pre-deceased by daughter S, who left a daughter B. On the death the widow (C), the heirs of the adopted son (G) sued r the property which had been left to G.

LD that, under the discretion vested in the widow, was at liberty to invest for the benefit of her ghter and granddaughter sums of money in the chase of immoveable property for their maintenance.

LD that the title to the property did not, by the h of G, become absolutely vested in C; but that the n of G's heirs to inherit in succession to G was poned (as G's rights had been by the agreement) the time of C's death, when it came into force in same manner as if the ekrarnamahs had never been cuted.

A widow enjoying the immoveable property of her eased husband is not entitled to alienate either imveable property or any property which she may have chased out of the profits of such estate.

Jackson, J.—THESE two appeals, No. 156 d No. 169, arise out of the same decision the Court of the Subordinate Judge of hoot in the suit brought by Chowdhry olanath Thakoor and others against Musmut Bhugobutty Dayee and others.

That which the plaintiff sought in this suit was to recover from the hands of the defendant, Mussamut Bhugobutty Dayee, and other defendants who are her lessees as to some of the property in dispute certain property, moveable and immoveable, which had been for many years in the hands of, and enjoyed by, one Chunderbutty, who was the widow of Oodun Thakoor, who died on the 23rd Falgoon 1234 Fuslee.

It seems that Oodun Thakoor (how long before his death does not appear) had adopted, by the Kirtima form, Chowdhry Greedharee Thakoor, the son of his own brother, Chowdhry Goonakur Thakoor; and then Oodun Thakoor, in the month of Magh, or a few weeks before his death, executed an instrument called an ekrarnamah, by which he directed that, excepting a certain portion of his property which he bestowed in absolute gift upon Mussamut Suttobutty, the remainder of his property, moveable and immoveable, was to be enjoyed for her lifetime by his wife Mussamut Chunderbutty, who was to expend the proceeds thereof, but was not to alienate any portion of it, and upon her death it was to become the absolute property of the adopted son.

These parties living in the Mithila country, and the adopted son having a vested interest in the property, it was necessary, in order to give validity to the instrument, that he should concur in the devise so made, and accordingly the adopted son appears to have executed an instrument of corresponding tenor, by which he also on his part concurred in making over this property for her lifetime to the adopting mother—the only noticeable difference as to expression in the two deeds being that in the deed of the son the widow is allowed to make what are called *laboodee* or necessary and reasonable expenses.

The adopted son, Gireedharee Thakoor, died on the 27th Assin 1260, and the widow Chunderbutty Dayee died in the month of Pous 1274, thus surviving the adopted son by about 14 years and her husband somewhere about 40 years. The daughter Suttobutty also pre-deceased her mother, and died in the year 1259, leaving one daughter, the defendant Bhugobutty, against whom this suit has been brought.

The plaintiffs set forth the whole of these facts in their plaint, and they allege Gireedharee Thakoor to have died leaving them as his heirs, though for some reason or other

their pleader, in answer to a question of the Subordinate Judge, appears to have stated that his clients did not claim as heirs of Gireedharee, but merely mentioned his death incidentally. The plaintiffs, however, claim manifestly as heirs both of Oodun Thakoor and Gireedharee Thakoor. It seems to me, therefore, that the answer made by the pleader to a question of the Court upon what clearly was a point of law ought not to prejudice the plaintiffs, who have set out the whole of the facts of their case, and have left it to the Court, as it certainly was the Court's business, to apply the law which may be applicable to them.

The defendant Bhugobutty Dayee contends that she is the heiress of her mother's mother, that the property was, in fact, the grandmother's *streedhun*, that the grandmother did not take as an ordinary Hindoo widow, but that the effect of the deed under which she held was taken in connection with the death of Gireedharee before the mother to vest the property in the mother absolutely, so as to defeat all claim of the heirs of Gireedharee or others.

The Subordinate Judge has given the plaintiffs a decree in respect of the immoveable property which admittedly came from Oodun Thakoor, but has allowed the defendant to retain possession of all the other property in suit, which I shall presently state as being divided for the purposes of argument into four classes.

In respect of that portion of the Subordinate Judge's decision which is in favor of the plaintiffs, I think the decision was right, although not for the reasons stated by the Court below. Shortly, the effect of the two ekrarnamahs, which have been read to us, appears to me to be this, that by an understanding between Oodun Thakoor and his adopted son, carried out in these instruments, it was agreed that, notwithstanding the adoption, Chunderbutty should take and enjoy the estate of her husband, whose death was then apprehended, and which did shortly afterwards occur, in the same mode as she would have taken, and enjoyed it if no adoption had taken place.

In this point of view, it appears to me that the succession and rights of Gireedharee were by agreement postponed until after the death of Chunderbutty, and consequently, Gireedharee having pre-deceased her, the rights of the reversionary heirs were in like manner postponed until the time of her death; and as they could at any rate, have claimed if Gireedhar had pre-deceased the adoptive father, the death of Chunderbutty, it seems to their claim to inherit in succession to Gi dharee comes into force at the time of death of Chunderbutty just in the sa manner as if those deeds had never be executed. There seems to be no gro for the contention that, by the death Gireedharee, an absolute title to this p perty vested in Chunderbutty, and it see quite clear that the terms of the ins ments in no sense support that argument.

For these reasons, I consider that Court below was right in giving the plai a decree for the property numbered 1 to and that the defendant's appeal in resp of that property ought to be dismis with costs.

Then follows the appeal of the pla iffs in regard to the rest of the prope That property has been classified in way. It consists, firstly, of the proper numbered 13, 14, 18, and 19, in the Sched annexed to the plaint, which are proper acquired by Chunderbutty in her own na out of the funds derived from the inco of the estate which she took; secondly, properties numbered 15, 16, and 17, whi are properties acquired from the sa sources, but acquired in the names Chunderbutty's daughter and granddaug ter and for their benefit; thirdly, the p perties numbered from 21 to 30, which moveable properties acquired from the sa sources; and fourthly, those numbered and 31 to 31, which are the family-premi and gardens standing on the site of land, which by the decree we have giv goes to the plaintiff.

And as regards the first of these class of property, namely, those which appe in the form of immoveable property pu chased from the accumulations made Chunderbutty from the profits of the esta which she received, there are several dec sions, of which I may refer to that reporte in 9 Weekly Reporter, page 584, an another to be found in I. Agra High Cou Reports, page 219, by which it has bee distinctly held that, in cases of a wido enjoying the property of her deceased hus band, she is not entitled to alienate immove able property or any property that she ha purchased out of the profits of such estate, any more than she can alienate the immove able property itself of which that estate

nsists. No authority whatever has been own to us on the other side; and it seems me that those decisions are substantially conformity with the Hindoo Law. I nk, therefore, that in regard to those pro-rties the plaintiffs were clearly entitled to decree.

In regard to the second class, namely, property which Chunderbutty purchased m the profits of her husband's estate, and ich she appears to have bestowed upon r daughter and daughter's daughter, the e is otherwise. The widow was allowed, der the deeds which conveyed the pro-y to her, to enjoy it for her lifetime, incur all needful expenses. Now, it ms to me that, under the discretion so ed in her, she would be quite at liberty vest, for the benefit of her daughter granddaughter, sums of money in the chase of property for their maintenance; in that way she seems to me to have ly understood and to have acknowledged distinction between money so expended money which really remained in her ds, although the form of it was changed its being invested in immoveable pro-y. As regards the properties numbered 16, and 17, therefore, the decision of the rt below should, I think, be affirmed.

As regards the properties numbered from to 30, these appear to follow the same nciple as that laid down in regard to the class of property, and the plaintiff will, efore, be entitled to a decree for the eable property; but as no evidence has n laid before us as to the value of this perty, we feel unable to come to any clusion as to what award should be made respect of that property. All we can do to declare that the plaintiffs are entitled recover the moveable property left by nderbutty, which she acquired directly m Oodun Thakoor, or purchased out of proceeds of his estate.

Then as to the fourth class of properties mbered 20 and 31 to 34, these also appear follow the same rule, that is to say, the applicable to property representing er ancestral property or improvement of ch property, or alteration or improvement de out of the ancestral funds, which st go to the heirs of Gireedharee, and to the defendant, who is the daughter's ughter of Chunderbutty.

It appears that no evidence was given to ow that these properties stand in the name of the defendant or her mother, and I understand also that no evidence was given to show from what sources these properties were acquired. That, therefore, is an additional reason for allowing the plaintiff's claim in respect of them. Our order, therefore, in this appeal will be that the order of the Lower Court, except as to the properties numbered 15, 16, and 17, will be reversed, and that the parties will pay and receive costs in the Lower Court in proportion to the value of the properties decreed and disallowed; and in this Court the plaintiffs, appellants, will recover the costs of the appeal from the defendants, excepting only the costs of that portion of the property in respect of which no specific decree has been given, the respondents paying their own costs of this Court.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Bond-suit—Decree for land—Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861.

Case No. 326 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 12th July 1870, reversing an order of the Moonsiff of Pothna, dated the 10th January 1870.

Talun Bibee (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Tenoo Bibee (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboo Romanath Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Respondent.

Where the original suit was for money on a bond under 500 rupees, it was held that the fact of its having been decided on a solehnamah (which was embodied in the decree), whereby the judgment-debtor gave to his creditor land in lieu of money, did not change the nature of the suit with reference to Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861, or make it open to special appeal.

Glover, J.—THE decree-holder sued the judgment-debtor for money due on a bond, and the case was decided on a solehnamah executed between the parties, whereby the judgment-debtor gave to his creditor 1½ beegahs of land in lieu of the money due. The decree-holder afterwards took proceedings to recover, when the judgment-debtor contended that the decree could not be executed for money, because the money-claim had been by consent altered into one for land.

The Judge in appeal held that the solehnamah could be executed for recovery of the money, inasmuch as it was embodied in a decree of Court, and he referred in support of his decision to the case of Chunder Narain Ghose *versus* Gouree Nath Bose, reported in Volume IV., Weekly Reporter, Small Cause Court References, page 7. The judgment-debtor appeals specially against this decision. A preliminary objection, however, is taken by the decree-holder to the effect that this suit was originally one of a nature cognizable by the Small Cause Courts, and that, therefore, no special appeal lies. Against this view it is contended that, although the original suit was for money on a bond under 500 rupees, the decree gave the creditor authority to take possession of 1½ beegahs of land, that the nature of the suit was thereby changed, and was no longer one cognizable by a Small Cause Court. The original suit was one for money on a bond for a less sum than 500 rupees; and the mere fact of the decree giving certain lands instead of that money did not change the *nature* of the suit.

Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861, lays down that no special appeal will lie in any suit of a nature cognizable by the Small Cause Courts, and in this instance the nature of the suit remained from first to last the same. We, therefore, think that the preliminary objection is good, and that the special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glo
Judges.

Execution—Payments out of Court—Secti 266, Act VIII., 1859.

Case No. 345 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order p by the Officiating Judge of East B wan, dated the 29th July 1870, rever an order of the Moonsiff of that Dist dated the 30th April 1870.

Juggut Mohinee Dossee (Decree-holde
Appellant,

versus

Madhub Chunder Kur (Judgment-deb
Respondent.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *A hendro Lall Seal* for Appellant.

Baboo Nuleet Chunder Sein for Respond

Payments out of Court may be certified to the C and proved by the decree-holder in order to avoid action of the law of limitation, notwithstanding provisions of Section 206, Act VIII. of 1859.

Kemp, J.—IN this case, the decree-hol is the special appellant. He sues to exec his decree, but in the application to exec the Column which ought to contain the d of the decree is left blank. We are, ho ever, informed that this was a decree in suit for arrears of rent in a Moonsiff's Co and it, therefore, must have been a which was pending before Act X. of 18 came into operation. The decree-holder leged that, in Falgoon 1270, the judgme debtor, after receiving credit for certain d ductions on the amount due by him, execu an instalment-bond for the balance due p able by yearly instalments ranging from t year 1270 to the year 1280; that the jud ment-debtor continued to pay the instalme as they fell due up to the year 1273; th the last payment was made on the 2 Bysack 1274, and as the application f execution is within three years from th date, or in Magh 1276, it is, therefore, time.

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The judgment-debtor denies the payment f any sum under this kistbundee.

The first Court found on the evidence and the jumma-khuruch filed by the decree-lder and on all the probabilities of the case at the plea set up by the judgment-debtor s false, and that it was set up merely to oid payment of the amount due under the cree. On appeal to the Judge, the Judge his judgment refers us to his decision in ses Nos. 74 and 75 as governing the present se, and on referring to that judgment we d that he has applied to these cases the ng of the Full Bench in the case report- in Volume IV., Bengal Law Reports, e 105, Full Bench Rulings.*

In special appeal, it is contended that the wer Appellate Court is wrong in holding t the application to execute the decree is red by limitation, and that the Lower pellate Court should have held that part-ment within the last three years took case out of the statute of limitation, and ly that the Full Bench Ruling cited by Lower Appellate Court does not apply to facts and circumstances of the present e; and in support of his arguments the ader for the special appellant called our ention to the Full Bench Ruling reported Volume XIII., Weekly Reporter.

We think that the Full Bench Ruling re-red to by the Judge has no application this case. In this case, the question ich the Judge had to try was whether, at time the kistbundee was executed by judgment-debtor, there was then a sub-ing decree, and whether any steps suffi-nt to keep that decree alive had been en within three years from the date of t decree before the kistbundee was ex-ted in Falgoon 1270 The next question will have to try is whether the allegation the judgment-debtor that there has been no ments at all under this kistbundee is cor-t, or whether, as found by the first Court, allegation of the decree-holder that pay-nts have been made from 1270 to 1273 as tified on the back of the kistbundee is true. e may inform the Judge that it has been d that payments out of Court may be certi-d to the Court and proved by the decree-lder in order to avoid the action of the law limitation, the provisions of Section 206, t VIII. of 1859, notwithstanding. The dge, therefore, will have to try these points d find whether the suit is barred or not.

* 18 W. R., F. B., p. 44.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction — Execution — Limitation.

Case No. 386 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 29th July 1870.

Maharajah Dheraj Mahtab Chand Bahadoor (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Moorleedhur Ghose and others (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

Where a Judge finds that an application for execution is within time, and there is no appeal from his finding, his successor is not justified in going behind his order.

An application for execution cannot be thrown out summarily as barred by limitation, because the decree-holder has failed to find any of his judgment-debtor's property, or been baffled in his endeavours to satisfy his decree.

Kemp, J.—THE decree-holder is the appellant. He applies to execute a decree, dated in March 1827. The present application was made on the 6th April 1870. On a previous application made by the decree-holder, the former Judge of East Burdwan, Mr. Russell, held, on the 1st July 1867, that the application then made was within three years of the last step taken to execute the decree, and the objection then raised that the suit was barred was overruled and rejected with costs. The Judge, Mr. Russell, observing the proceedings on the last occasion, had gone as far as attachment of the property of the judgment-debtor, and it was, therefore, certain that the judgment-debtor must have known of the execution having been taken against him. But, however that may be, the Judge then found clearly that the application was within time, and there was no appeal from that decision. The present application is therefore within time,

being dated less than three years since the above application was made. The present Judge, Mr. Birch, begins his decision by saying: "The claim must be allowed with costs," but he does not inform us as to what claim must be allowed, and why it must be allowed; then he goes on to say: "I cannot allow this case to go any further," but he says: "As the plea of limitation has been raised by the claimant's pleader, which we may observe was then raised for the first time, as it had not been taken in the claimant's written statement of objections, he holds himself bound to go into the question of limitation." He then states that the original decree was passed in March 1827, more than 43 years ago, that the original decree was for a sum of Rupees 1,945-1-6, and execution had now been taken out for Rupees 11,200-6-5; that in 1830 all that could be found of the judgment-debtor's property was sold, and subsequent to that merely colorable proceedings were taken; that in 1867 the case was before his predecessor, and a claim which was preferred was by him allowed, but no notice was taken of the facts of the case as regards limitation. In this Mr. Birch is clearly wrong; the former Judge did take notice of this plea, and held distinctly that the case was not affected by the statute of limitation. This, no doubt, is an old decree, but it does not follow that, because the decree-holder has failed to find any of his judgment-debtor's property, or has been baffled in his endeavours to satisfy his decree, that his suit must be thrown out in this summary manner.

The judgment-debtors have also raised an objection which would fall under Sections 203 and 211 of the Code. Under Section 203, they had to satisfy the Court that they had duly applied such property of the deceased proved to have come into their possession; and on their failing to do so, the decree might be executed against them to the extent of the property not duly applied by them in the same manner as if the decree had been against them personally. The Judge has not gone into this point at all, and he must now try it.

We, therefore, reverse his decision, and hold that he was not justified in going behind the order of his predecessor which had not been appealed against; and as the case is not barred by limitation, he must try the point raised by the heirs of the original judgment-debtor under Sections 203 and 211, and pass a fresh decision.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Re-arrest of judgment-debtor.

Case No. 415 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Purneah, dated the 8th August 1870, affirming an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 8th March 1870.

Shib Ram Mundul (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Ruhmutoollah (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboo Tarucknath Sein for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondent.

It is not within the competence of a Judge to direct the re-arrest of a judgment-debtor without any petition or motion of the decree-holder to that effect.

Bayley, J.—We think the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court in this case must be reversed. It was not within the competency of the Judge to direct the re-arrest of the judgment-debtor without any petition or motion of the decree-holder to that effect. Possibly the decree-holder might be a loser by this proceeding of the Court taken without his consent. The Judge could, of course, order the judgment-debtor's re-arrest at the motion or application of the decree-holder, but no such application is on the record or shown to us.

The judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is therefore reversed, but without costs, as the decree-holder Ruhmutoollah does not oppose the present appeal, but, on the contrary, has filed a petition praying to be allowed to withdraw from the record.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judge*.

Limitation — Section 14, Act XIV., 1859 — Parties—Issues.

Case No. 1641 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 12th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 27th August 1869.

Banee Madhub Lahoree (Defendant), *Appellant*,

versus

Bipro Dass Dey (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Mr. M. L. Sandel and *Baboos Umerendro Nath Chatterjee* and *Jogendro Nath Bose* for Appellant.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Shome for Respondent.

Where a plaintiff relying upon the defendant's representation as to the latter's place of residence brought his suit in a Court which had not jurisdiction, the time of the pendency of the suit in such Court was held to be properly excluded under Section 30, Act XIV. of 1859, in computing limitation.

When a suit is brought against two persons, it is competent to the Court to raise an issue whether one of them is solely liable, and on finding that one only is liable, to pass a separate decree against that person.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a suit on a bond brought against two persons, brothers, Banee Madhub Lahoree and Tara Chand Lahoree. The bond was due at the end of Bysack 1273, and a suit was brought on it in the Court of the Moonsiff of Sulkea on the 9th Bysack 1276.

The cause of action arose in Calcutta. The defendants are described in the bond as residents of Satragachee within the Sulkea district.

It turned out, however, on the trial before the Moonsif that the defendants resided in Alipore in the 24-Pergunnahs. The Moonsiff of Sulkea, therefore, returned the plaint to the plaintiff on the 15th of June 1859, and on the same day the plaint was presented in the Court of the Moonsiff of Alipore.

At the trial it was proved to the satisfaction of the Moonsiff, and on appeal to the satisfaction of the Judge, that the bond was executed by the defendant Banee Madhub Lahoree; but the execution by the other defendant Tara Chand Lahoree was not proved. A witness, however, stated that Banee Madhub Lahoree had produced a person whom he described as his younger brother Tara Chand, and that the bond was executed by that person.

The Moonsiff dismissed the suit as against Tara Chand, and gave the plaintiff a decree against Banee Madhub alone, and that decree was upheld by the Judge.

Two objections are taken before us on special appeal. The first is that the suit is barred by limitation, because it was brought in the Alipore Court out of time. But the answer to that is, that the suit in the Moonsiff's Court at Sulkea was brought within time, and that, in computing the period of limitation the time during which the suit was pending in the Moonsiff's Court at Sulkea must, under the provisions of Section 14 of Act XIV. of 1859, be excluded from the calculation.

There can be no doubt that the plaintiff, in seeking a remedy against persons who described themselves as of Satragachee in the Sulkea district, relied on the defendants' representation as to the place of their residence, and acted *bonâ fide* in suing them in the Court of the Moonsiff of that district. He could not be expected to sue the maker of this bond for Rupees 444 in the Court within the jurisdiction of which the cause of action arose, namely, in the High Court of Calcutta. Had he done that, he would have unnecessarily multiplied costs against the defendants. The deduction above referred to brings the suit within time, and the appellant's first objection, therefore, fails.

The second objection is that the execution of the bond by the co-defendant is not proved. As to that, there are two alternatives. Either the person who executed the bond was Tara Chand Lahoree, in which case, although the execution by him is not proved, there is no possible objection to the maintenance of the suit; or the person who executed the bond was not Tara Chand, but somebody who was brought forward by his co-defendant Banee Madhub, and who, with the privity of Banee Madhub, forged the name of Tara Chand Lahoree to the bond. In the latter case, it may be that Banee Madhub ought to be tried criminally for abetting forgery, and punished accordingly. Or it may also be that no forgery was committed, but Tara Chand really signed

the bond, and Banee Madhub knows it. In either case, there is no ground for absolving Tara Chand from liability. When a suit is brought against two persons, it is quite competent to the Court to raise an issue whether one of them is solely liable, and on finding that one only is liable to pass a separate decree against that person.

We see no ground for disturbing the decree of the Lower Courts in the present case, and we affirm that decree with costs.

It is suggested that there is some mistake in the calculation of interest for one year; if that be so, the parties agree to have that matter set right by the Lower Appellate Court.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Hindoo Law—Nephews—Succession.

Case No. 1711 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 14th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 28th June 1869.

Brojo Mohun Thakoor and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Gouree Pershad Chowdhry and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

The Advocate-General (Cowie) and *Mr. R. E. Twidale* for Appellants.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Abinash Chunder Banerjee* for Respondents.

Under the Mitakshara, a nephew succeeds, not as the heir of his father, but as the direct heir of his uncle.

Mitter, J.—There is no ground for this special appeal. It is admitted on both sides that the property, one-half of which is now in dispute, belonged to Sobhun Singh.

The defendants contend that their vendors, Kirt Narain and Gribur Dharee, who were the brother's sons of Sobhun Singh, were entitled to the whole of the estate left by the latter as his nearest heirs under the Hindoo Law.

The plaintiffs, who are the purchasers a 4-annas share of the property from grandsons of Oudun Singh, contend that vendors, *viz.*, the grandsons of Oudun Si were entitled to participate in that prop to the extent of one-half under the ek namah, bearing date the 20th August 1 This ekrarnamah was executed betw Bissonath Singh and Oudun Singh. B is quite clear that the right of inherita set up by the defendants was not dep through Bissonath, and therefore no ag ment which Bissonath might have ent into with Oudun Singh for the division the property left by Sobhun Singh after death can be binding against the defend who claim through the sons of Bisso A nephew succeeds under the Mitaks not as the heir of his father, but as the di heir of his uncle; and thus the vendo the defendants are clearly entitled to entire estate left by Sobhun Singh, not standing the ekrarnamah executed by t father Bissonath in favor of Oudun and heirs.

We dismiss the special appeal with co

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkan Mitter, *Judges.*

Section 230, Act VIII., 1859—Possession.

Case No. 1813 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Subordinate Judge of Purneah, d the 26th May 1870, affirming a deci of the Moonsiff of that District, dated 25th February 1870.

Bhyrub Sircar and another (two of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Sham Manjee (Plaintiff). *Respondent.*

Baboo Anund Gopal Paleet for Appellant

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondent.

Possession by receipt and enjoyment of rent is as go in law as actual occupation, and Section 230, Act VI of 1859, is not restricted to cases of personal occupati

Mitter, J.—There is no ground for th special appeal. Both the Courts have co currently found that the transaction rele upon by the appellant is a collusive one.

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is urged that the Lower Appellate has expressed no opinion on the depo- of the witnesses produced by the llant. But there is no force in this tion. There is nothing to show that Lower Appellate Court did not go gh all the evidence on the record, or at through that portion of it on which ppellant intended to rely.

e next objection is that the Lower llate Court was wrong in acting under provisions of Section 230 of the Code vil Procedure, inasmuch as the plaintiff not in actual possession of the property pute. But the Courts have found that rson in actual occupation, namely, hie Singh, was a tenant of the plaint- d that the plaintiff had been in the t and enjoyment of rent through him. sion by receipt and enjoyment of rent good in law as actual occupation, we do not see any reason why we d hold that the provisions of Section apply to those cases only in which party seeking for relief under that Sec- was in personal occupation.

e see no reason to interfere with the ment of the Lower Appellate Court, we, therefore, dismiss this appeal with s.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

nt-suit—Excess area—Notice—Section 13, Act X., 1859.

e No. 1591 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

cial *Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 7th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of Monghyr, dated the 30th November 1869.*

hekmee Beldar (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Kishen Lall (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Appellant.

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Respondent.

A suit for arrears of rent of a quantity of land alleged to have been held by defendant over and above the quantity covered by his pottah was held to be in substance a suit for rent at an enhanced rate requiring the issue of a notice under Section 13, Act X. of 1859.

The objection that no notice had been served, though not taken in the Court below, was allowed in special appeal, inasmuch as the suit had infringed provisions of law which were not mere matters of form, but substantial protection to the ryot for whose benefit Act X. was enacted.

Bayley, J.—I AM of opinion that the plaintiff's suit in this case must be dismissed, although not for the same reasons upon which the first Court has proceeded.

The plaintiff sued for the rent of 20 beegahs and odd cottahs of land for the years 1274, 1275, and 1276 on the allegation that the defendant obtained from him a pottah for 142 beegahs and 13 cottahs, but that over and above that quantity he actually held and occupied the said 20 beegahs in excess, and therefore was liable to pay the increased rent claimed.

The defendant averred that there was no excess of land whatever, and added, apparently by way of challenge, and not as an admission or waiver, that, if it were proved that he was in occupation of the excess lands stated by plaintiff, he was ready to pay the same rent for them as he did for the other lands.

Now, in the first place, in a suit like this, which was, in substance, a suit for rent at enhanced rate on the ground of excess area, the service of a notice before suit was necessary by Section 13, Act X. of 1859. The terms of Section 13 are: "No ryot or under-tenant, &c., shall be liable to pay any "higher rent than the rent payable for the "previous year, unless a written notice *shall* "have been served," &c., &c.

Now, in this case it is admitted that no notice was served on the defendant. It follows, therefore, that under the law the defendant is not liable to pay the enhanced rate that the plaintiff has claimed. It was

the duty of the plaintiff, if he wished to enhance the rent on the ground of excess area, to bring his suit in strict conformity to the requirements contained in the provisions of Section 13 for such enhancement.

It is urged, however, that this objection was not taken in any Court below, but at the same time it is admitted, for it cannot be questioned, that this Court has discretion in each particular case to allow any new objection that it thinks fit either at the motion of the party or otherwise, and I think that the present is a case in which that discretion ought to be exercised; for if we are to hold, notwithstanding the absence of notice in this case, that the ryot is liable to pay an enhanced rent, it would be holding in direct opposition to the prohibition contained in Section 13, Act X. of 1859. I think, therefore, that in this particular case, where the suit is so improperly brought against the provisions of law (and those provisions are not mere matters of form, but substantial protection for the ryot for whose benefit the Act was enacted), we should allow the objection to be taken, although it was not taken in the Courts below.

Further, the plaintiff's suit was for rent of land alleged to have been held and occupied by the defendant in excess of the 142 beegahs mentioned in the pottah; and for this purpose the evidence of the Patwaree, Mondul, or any of his land agents, would have been the best evidence, and he should have also proved his case by the *dagwaree* chittahs which are in the hands of every man who is, as plaintiff is shown on the record to be, the owner or farmer of an entire pergunnah; but nothing of this kind has been done. An Ameen was ordered to investigate as to what was the area of the excess lands held by the defendant. The Ameen found 32 beegahs—or 12 beegahs lands in the defendant's occupation beyond the 20 beegahs excess for which plaintiff claimed an enhancement of rent. It appears, too, that as to these extra lands two persons, Patur Beldar and Dugree Beldar, advanced claims to the effect that the lands were theirs, and not the defendant's, but this point does not seem to have been investigated either by the first Court or by the Lower Appellate Court. The first Court proceeded upon the ground that, as the plaintiff could not point out what extra lands were held by the defendant, he could not succeed in this case. On appeal, the Lower Appellate Court says: "As the entire pergunnah "was leased to the plaintiff, unless it c "shown that the terms of the lease sp "barred the plaintiff from receiving r "any land over and above the land "which pottahs were granted to the "by the settlement-officer, the plaint "lessee of the entire pergunnah, is l "and equitably entitled to the rent o "extra lands cultivated within the pr "of the estate covered by his lease;" wrongly putting the burthen of proof, ought to have been placed on the pl upon the defendant.

The legal course which the plaintiff to have pursued was that of serving a notice on the tenant under Section 1 X. of 1859, before the institution of th and then furnishing proof of the facts in the notice as the ground for seeki hanced rent, *viz.*, an excess of area. nothing of this kind has been done. is no chittah or any other similar ev adduced to identify the lands claimed cess lands, and in fact everything is w which ought to have been legally prov the case. Had the plaintiff given proof of the justice of his claim, pro this Court would have thought it pro offer him an opportunity of making u deficiency in his evidence; but such a his case is in the first illegally brought in the next wanting in legal proof. practice of sending Ameens to take evi in cases like this, where the evidence more properly to have been taken befo Court itself, is, in my opinion, not only neous in law, but very likely to tend to chief and injustice.

Thus, the plaintiff having come into without doing a single thing which, the law, he was required to do, his suit be dismissed without prejudice to any ther action that he may be advise bring.

As the objection as to notice was taken in any Court below, I think each ty should bear his own costs throughout.

Mitter, J.—I concur in dismissing plaintiff's suit. The suit was osten brought as an ordinary suit for arrears of r but in substance it was a suit for arr of rent at enhanced rates. It was, the fore, incumbent on the plaintiff to serv notice upon the defendant, under the pr sions of Section 13, Act X. of 1859, bef he commenced any proceedings on such cause of action.

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is said that this objection was not n in the Court below, but the objection ne which goes to show, under the ex- s words of the Section above referred hat the defendant is not liable to pay enhanced rent to the plaintiff, because as not served with the notice required hat Section. It is quite clear that the ndant has been throughout contesting ability to pay any enhanced rent, and r such circumstances it cannot be for a ent contended that there was any waiver he part of the defendant. Whether I d have allowed this objection to be in special appeal, if the circumstances is case were different from what they it is not necessary for me to say; but g to the way in which this suit was t and managed on the part of the iff in the Courts below, I am clearly nion that he is not entitled to harass fendant by continuing this litigation ther. Instead of coming forward lear and distinct evidence in support allegations, he has left everything to oved for him by the Ameen; and al- h there is nothing in law which ts a party from asking for a local igation, I cannot help remarking the plaintiff's request for such in- ation in this case was nothing but pedient to do away with those pro- s of the Code of Civil Procedure which n that, except under special circumstan- witnesses should be examined in open in the presence of the parties, and not ommission. It is true that the Ameen competent to take the depositions of nes, but I see no reason whatever why witnesses should not have been pro- d and examined in open Court. No in- on of the land was necessary in this and the first thing that the plaintiff to have proved was, not merely that ands in dispute were situated within the aphical limits of the pergunnah leased , but that those lands were included e settlement made with him, and that defendants were, in point of fact, in oc- ion thereof as his tenants. Nothing is kind has been attempted to be done, I would, therefore, without going any er into the merits, dismiss this suit on imple ground that no enhancement of can be decreed against the defendants e absence of the notice prescribed by ion 13, Act X. of 1859.

agree also in the order as to costs.

The 24th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Certificate of administration—Heirs—Maintenance.

Case No. 21 of 1870.

Application for review of judgment passed by the Hon'ble Justices H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, on the 13th July 1870, in Miscellaneous Appeal No. 88 of 1869.

Dinobundhoo Chowdhry (Objector), *Petitioner*,

versus

Rajmohinee Chowdhrain (Petitioner), *Opposite Party.*

Mr. J. W. B. Money for Petitioner.

Mr. J. Graham and *Baboos Mohendro Lall Shome* and *Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar* for Opposite Party.

Where the will set up by objectors to an application by the natural heir for a certificate of administration is not sufficiently proved, a Court is justified in looking on the natural heir as the party entitled to the certificate.

The question of the adequacy of the maintenance granted to widows and daughters must depend in each case on its own peculiar circumstances.

Bayley, J.—After fully hearing the learned Counsel for the applicant, I am still of opinion that, for the purposes of a certificate, the will propounded by Dino Bundhoo is not sufficiently proved to justify me in holding that he is entitled under it to that certificate in preference to the widow, the next heir of the deceased.

The two main points argued are—*firstly*, that the inadequacy of the grant made to the widow and the daughter in the will must not weigh against the direct evidence in support

of the will; and, *secondly*, that the maintenance allowed is in accordance with the custom of the family, as is proved by certain records in the case of a brother and an uncle in the same family.

When we first heard the case, we considered the evidence very carefully, and weighed, on the one hand, the direct evidence as to the execution of the will, and on the other, the probabilities and surrounding circumstances of the case, and thought it immaterial and improbable that the widow and the daughter should be left without those ordinary provisions generally made to such nearest of kin.

After a full rehearing of the whole case today, I still adhere to the opinion that I formerly entertained. I think that the special title, that is, the will set forth by Dino Bundhoo, is not sufficiently proved, and that thus, for the purposes of the certificate, we are justified to look to the natural heir as the party entitled to it.

As to the other wills that have been filed to show that Rupees 25 was the ordinary maintenance allowed for next heirs, widows and daughters, in other cases in the family of the testator, we have to observe, in the first place, that those wills are not proved; and, secondly, we must not come to any conclusion in this case simply on the acts of the other members of the family in other cases, and each case must depend on its own peculiar circumstances. It may be that some special reasons exist in relation to one member of the family which do not hold good in the case of another. But be that as it may, the result of a careful consideration of the whole evidence and circumstances of this case is that the will propounded by Dino Bundhoo is not sufficiently proved to divest the natural heir of her right to the certificate. The petitioner is, no doubt, entitled to bring a regular suit if he is so advised. This order will not prejudice his so doing, if advised.

The application is rejected with costs.

Mitter, J.—I concur in rejecting this application. The new documents ought not to be admitted. The petitioner had ample opportunity to produce them at the first particularly after the order of remand.

the other arguments, I have already my opinion in the judgment forlivered by me, and I adhere to that now.

The 24th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Onookool C der Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Execution—Refund—Interest.

Case No. 389 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order by the Judge of Moorshedabad, dat 30th August 1870, modifying a de of the Subordinate Judge of that trict, dated the 14th May 1870.

Wooma Soonduree Burmonia (Judgm debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Gooroo Pershad Roy and others (Dec holders), *Respondents.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appell

Baboos Anund Chunder Ghossal a *Mohendro Lall Seal* for Respondent

While a special appeal was pending, the de holder took out execution, and realized a sum in faction of his whole decree. The decree having modified, and the amount decreed reduced, the j ment-debtor applied for a refund of the excess ment, and this was awarded to him with interest.

HELD that interest was rightly awarded.

Loch, J.—IT appears that in this ca decree was passed by the Judge of M shedabad in alteration of a decree of Subordinate Judge. By that decree, Judge awarded to the plaintiff wassilat five years on account of one mouzah D rumpore, and for two years on account of other two mehals Tehatee and Baboop with interest thereon. A special appeal preferred to this Court when the dec of the Judge was modified on the 14th M 1869, and the plaintiff was declared entit to mesne-profits only for two years account of mouzah Dhurumpore as well of the two other villages. It appears that, while the special appeal was pendi the plaintiff took out execution in Aug 1868, and realized from the defendant t sum of Rupees 1,967-10 9 in satisfaction the whole of his decree. On that decr being modified by an order of the Hig Court, the defendant applied for a refund the excess payment, and the Judge ha awarded him the sum of Rupees 1,607-14-

being the principal, interest, and costs which he had paid in excess of the amount decreed by the High Court.

Now, it is contended before us that the Judge should not have awarded interest on the principal sum which was ordered to be refunded to the debtor. But we do not see that this objection is of any weight. The case is a simple one. In liquidation of the decree which was then outstanding against him, the defendant paid down the sum of Rupees 1,967-10-9, and when that decree was modified, he asked that so much of the sum which he had paid in excess of the amount decreed by the High Court might be refunded to him with interest; and we think that the Judge was perfectly right in awarding interest. The decree-holder had taken out the money, and had made use of it; and when he was obliged to refund the money, the debtor was entitled to receive interest upon that money, which properly ought never to have found its way into the hands of the decree-holder.

We think, therefore, that the objection now taken before us must be disallowed, and the appeal dismissed with costs, sixteen rupees being allowed as pleader's fee.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 23rd January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Transfer of a decree—Sections 2 and 5, Act III. of 1870.

In the Matter of

Sreemutty Jugodumba Dossee, *Petitioner*.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Petitioner.

Where, by the operation of Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869 and Act III. of 1870, a decree is transferred (*e. g.*, from the Court of a Deputy Collector to that of a Subordinate Judge), any application as to a matter prior to, or which may affect, the decree (*e. g.*, an application for a review), must be made to the Court which passed the decree.

Norman, C. J.—It appears to us that there is no ground for our interference in this case. By the conjoint operation of Act VIII. of 1869 and Act III. of 1870, B. C., the decree against the applicant, Sreemutty Jugodumba Dossee, was transferred from the Court of the Deputy Collector to that of the Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs. The Subordinate Judge, who was executing that decree made a certain order. The applicant then presented a petition to the Subordinate Judge to review the judgment of the Deputy Collector which was passed so long ago as the 16th June 1869. The Judge refused that application, considering that he had no jurisdiction to entertain; and that, if the petitioner desired to have that decree reviewed, her proper course was to apply to the Deputy Collector.

We think that the Judge was perfectly right. Under Section 3, Act III. of 1870, the decree alone was transferred, that is, transferred for the purpose of execution. If there had been any doubt as to the transfer of the suit by the transfer of the decree, that doubt would have been set at rest by the 2nd and 5th Sections of Act III. of 1870, which show clearly that any application in the suit as to a matter prior to, or which might affect, a decree must be made, not to the Court to which the decree was transferred, but to the Court by which the decree was made. The application is refused.

The 23rd January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges*.

Endowments (wuqf)—Execution—Attachment—Leases.

Case No. 152 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 21st September 1869, modifying a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 24th June 1869.

Mr. James Fegredo (Defendant), *Appellant*,

versus

Mahomed Mudessur and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents*.

Messrs. C. Gregory and *J. S. Rochfort* and *Baboo Taruck Nath Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Respondent.

Where property is endowed (made wuqf) by the proprietor, and as such devolves to his widow as trustee (Mutwullee), it cannot be sold in satisfaction of a claim against him.

A widow claiming to be such trustee cannot be bound by a decision adverse to a claim set up by her husband's grandfather in respect to the property concerned, if she was not a party to the litigation.

Where landed property is attached in execution of a decree, the party attaching is bound by a lease obtained for it prior to his attachment.

Kemp, J.—THIS suit was remanded on the 19th August 1868 by Justices Bayley and Macpherson.* The decision remanding the case is a very elaborate one, and enters most fully into the case both on questions of law and fact.

Mr. Justice Macpherson, who gave the decision, observed that "the case was really "a very difficult one, involving many very "complicated and intricate questions, and "the consideration of various previous de-"crees, the effect of which it was not very "easy to ascertain accurately." Further, that learned Judge remarked that "it was "impossible to discover and declare the true "relative positions of the parties without "going with the utmost precision and ac-"curacy into all the details of what has "occurred, both as to the results of previous "litigation as to the property in dispute, and "in the course of the dealings between the "appellant and the widows in relation to the "giving the lease to the appellant and sub-"sequent thereto."

The case has occupied much of our time, and we cannot, without entering into some detail, satisfactorily dispose of it.

The case is briefly this: The plaintiff, special respondent, is an auction-purchaser in execution of a decree of the rights and interests of Dad Ali and Mahomed Ali, two brothers. It has been found, and the point is no longer open to discussion, that Mahomed Ali had no rights and interests such as could pass to the plaintiff under the purchase. Dad Ali, the remaining judgment-debtor, is represented by his two widows Akburoonissa and Nujoomoonissa. The defendant, special appellant, Mr. Fegredo, is the proprietor of the National Hotel at Burdwan. The plaintiff, after his purchase in February 1864 of the rights and interests of Dad Ali, sued Fegredo for the rent of the said house, alleging that, on the 14th August 1865, he served a notice on the defendant Fegredo to quit, not the whole house, but a 13-anna share of the house; and that, if he did not quit, he would be charged with rent at the rate of 100 rupees per mensem for the 13-annas share of the house in lieu of 40 rupees, the rent hitherto paid by the tenant Fegredo.

The defendant Fegredo's defence was briefly to this effect—that he held a lease from Akburoonissa and Nujoomoonissa, the two co-wives and widows of Dad Ali, executed on the part of Akburoonissa and confirmed on the part of Nujoomoonissa before the date of the attachment taken by plaintiff in execution of his decree; that this lease gives him a good title against the plaintiff. Fegredo further alleged that Khyrat Ali, the grandfather of Dad Ali and Mahomed Ali, made a wuqf by which he endowed the property; that Dad Ali, by an exchange with his brother Mahomed Ali, obtained this house in lieu of another house at the same station of Burdwan, and that, by the exchange, the whole house in dispute, known as the "Captain Saheb's Kootee," became wuqf; that Dad Ali, by his will, left the property in dispute as wuqf to his two widows in the proportion of 10 annas to the younger wife Nujoomoonissa, and 6 annas to the elder wife Akburoonissa. Fegredo, therefore, contends that, as the house in dispute was wuqf property, it could not be sold in execution of a decree against Dad Ali or his widows as representing him.

Fegredo obtained, in the first instance, a lease for the whole house from Akburoonissa alone on the 4th Bhadro 1269. This was admittedly before the attachment and sale in satisfaction of the decree under which the plaintiff purchased. He alleges that, on the 12th Aughran 1269, he obtained from the other widow Nujoomoonissa a confirmation of the above lease, which confirmation is also prior in date to plaintiff's attachment; that in Assin 1270, or subsequent to the plaintiff's attachment, Nujoomoonissa executed a formal lease to him of her share in the house. The defendant Fegredo, in addition to denying the plaintiff's title, pleaded further that he had expended a large sum of money in repairing the house, and that his lessors had agreed to allow him 2,000 rupees for the repairs with interest at 5 per cent., the said sum to be recovered by deductions from the rent. He, therefore, claimed the benefit of this arrangement as against the plaintiff, if liable at all to the plaintiff.

In the first instance and before the remand, the Principal Sudder Ameen found that the property was not wuqf, and gave

* 10 W. R., p. 267.

decree to the plaintiff at 40 rupees per mensem. The Judge held that the lease by Akburoonissa was *bonâ fide*, but that the alleged ratification by Nujoomoonissa by letter prior to attachment had not been proved. He objected to the letter, first, that it was a copy; secondly, because Fegredo had not deposed on oath to the circumstances under which the letter was given to him.

The Judge held that the plaintiff was not bound by the lease of Nujoomoonissa. He, however, was of opinion that Fegredo was entitled to a fair sum for repairs done, as such repairs were requisite. The case was remanded by him for further investigation, as to the extent and amount of repairs done. A decree was given to the plaintiff at the rate of 100 rupees per mensem for the 10-annas share from date of notice to quit, subject to a deduction of what might, on enquiry, be found due on account of repairs.

Both parties appealed, and this Court remanded the case directing the Judge to try the following issues: 1st.—As to the date on which Nujoomoonissa first confirmed the lease to Fegredo.

The Court directed this issue to be properly tried and decided, fresh evidence being gone into for this purpose. It further directed that both Fegredo and Nujoomoonissa should be examined strictly as to the exact date on which, and circumstances under which, the letter of confirmation was given.

2nd Issue.—Whether the house in dispute came to the hands of the widows of Dad Ali as wuqf, and was wuqf at the time the lease was given to Fegredo by Akburoonissa.

With regard to this issue, this Court remarked, "that there can be no doubt that the house was treated by Dad Ali in his will as wuqf, and was left in the proportions of 5 annas and 10 annas to his widows; that the Judge had adopted and acted upon the gift to the widows, but had not recognized or given effect to so much of the will as treated the property as wuqf: that it might be, as the Principal Sudder Ameen said, that the will of Khyrat Ali had been declared by a competent Court to be a forgery, and that this house never came into the hands of Dad Ali as wuqf; but it was matter for consideration whether there was anything which prevented Dad Ali from himself making the property wuqf, and leaving it as such to his widows." It, observes the learned Judge, the question as to this house being in the hands of the widows as wuqf has been determined by a judicial decision which is conclusive against *the parties in this suit*, of course there is an end of the matter; but it was not easy to discover whether there was really any binding decision on this point.

The learned Judge, in framing issue No. 2, observes further that it is possible that the property in dispute may be wuqf of the creation of Dad Ali, and directed that this question must be *distinctly* disposed of; that the Judge must consider and state *with precision* what particular decisions, if any, relating to the *matter in issue in this suit* are admissible as evidence and are binding on the parties.

The Judge was also directed to find whether the endowment was *bonâ fide* or merely nominal, for, if the latter, it would not be valid wuqf as against the plaintiff.

3rd Issue.—What is a fair and reasonable rent for the 10-annas share of the house? In deciding this issue, the Judge was directed to consider the state of the house when Fegredo entered upon the occupation, as also the reasonable and necessary repairs executed by him since his entry.

As regards the cross-appeal of the plaintiff, the learned Judge, Macpherson, remarked that it is clear that the liability of the plaintiff to the deduction claimed for repairs depends entirely on the date of the agreement to allow such repairs entered into by the widows; if it was entered into before the attachment, it is binding on the plaintiff exactly in the same degree as the lease; if after the attachment it cannot in any way bind the plaintiff.

After remand, the case was re-tried by the Subordinate Judge, Baboo Russick Lall Bose, who dismissed the plaintiff's suit with costs. The Subordinate Judge held that the property was wuqf, for, observes the Subordinate Judge, it is clear that Dad Ali alone had any title in the property, which would not have been the case if the property was not endowed. He further held that there was nothing in the former decision to show that the act of Dad Ali in making the wuqf was invalid; and with reference to the *bonâ-fide* character of the endowment, he found that, from the evidence of some of the witnesses produced by the plaintiff, it might be gathered that, during the lifetime of both Khyrat Ali and Dad Ali, the property was

used as wuqf in their family, and the purposes for which the endowment was made were carried out.

The Subordinate Judge refers to the deed of exchange dated the 14th Bysack 1265, and to the will of Dad Ali dated 22nd Bysack of the same year. This will, he observes, is registered, and was executed and acted upon long before the attachment and auction-purchase of the plaintiff, and that, at the time this deed was executed, there was no necessity for preparing it fraudulently: hence it cannot be said that the act of making the property wuqf was invalid, or that it was not really made wuqf. Further, that a decree of the late Sudder Court in September 1861 shows that Dad Ali appointed his two wives Mutawullees, and that an objection thereto raised by the co-sharers was rejected and a certificate granted to the widows according to the terms of the will of Dad Ali. The Subordinate Judge ends his judgment by remarking "that, as the plea "of the wuqf character of the property "was established and supported by the "evidence, it was needless to adjudicate "upon the other issues framed by the High "Court."

The plaintiff then appealed, and the Judge, Mr. A. E. Russell, on the main question of wuqf or no wuqf, remarks that "the "previous litigation to be found in decisions "Nos. 7 and 8 had disposed of the question "of endowment in as far as the endowment "by Khyrat Ali is concerned, as the plaintiff "in one of those suits, who is one of the "present defendant's lessor, sued to set "aside an auction-sale on the ground of the "property sold by the same being portion "of an endowment, her claim was dismissed; "and seeing that these lessors at that time "declared that they held under the will of "Dad Ali, and did not prove in these cases "that any endowment was created by that "will, I very much doubt whether their "lessee (Fegredo) is now entitled to raise "that question." The Judge, however, in order, as he says, to carry out the directions of this Court, states that "he has given this matter attention also," and having read the will and deed of exchange, he is of opinion that these documents are not of such a nature as to create any endowment. The Judge proceeds to observe that "the testator, *i. e.*, Dad Ali, holding as a Mutawullee, could not do otherwise than hand down the property to other trustees; but when it is proved that Dad Ali did not hold by a valid deed of endowment, because, though he decla himself to be a Mutawullee, he was "*facto* proprietor of the property."

With reference to the issue as to the d of the letter of confirmation by Nujoom nissa of the lease to defendant, the Ju observes that "he considers that the "has most glaringly shirked from answe "any direct question regarding it, while "is able to speak to any other of the num "ous points on which she was examin "further that, beyond the admission by "lady that the letter bore her seal, she "not attested it."

With reference to the evidence of Fegre the Judge observes that Fegredo failed fix in any intelligible way the period which the letter was given. For th reasons, the Judge was of opinion Nujoomoonissa "has purposely shirked question as to the time at which the le was written."

In the matter of the notice to the defe ant Fegredo to quit the house unless agreed to pay the enhanced rate of demanded, the Judge was of opinion "t "he was not justified in awarding the "demanded in the notice from date of "notice or even from the date of su the defendant will be liable, says the Jud "to pay rent according to the rate wh "the Court deems to be equitable from "date of the Judge's decree."

In the matter of the claim made by defendant for repairs and re-constructio the Judge was of opinion that "they can "be binding upon the plaintiff, for the co "sent of the defendant's lessor, name "Nujoomoonissa, to the bill for repair, "amounting to Rupees 2,000, was given a "the date of attachment;" further, as defendant has been in possession of house for a number of years at a low re the Judge did not think "that it is now nec "sary to allow the defendant to claim "lower rent in future on the plea of "expense he has been put to in the co "struction of rooms and the repairs of "house, especially as the amount expend "is excessively badly established." T Judge found that a fair and equitable re was Rupees 100 per mensem; but "as th "suit was one for arrears of rent of a hou "and not for a settlement of the rate "which it can be held in future," the Judge would not pass any opinion "as to the ra "which the defendant will be liable to p "hereafter on account of the 10 annu

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are of the property." The Judge decrees rent at the existing rate, *i. e.*, 40 rupees mensem up to the date of suit. Each to pay his own costs of the appeal. nst this decision both parties came up peal to this Court.

e take the question of wuqf first, for if property is wuqf, it will be unnecessary nsider the other questions raised by the nd-order. inasmuch as, if the property spute was endowed by Dad Ali, and as devolved to his widows as trustees, it d not be sold in satisfaction of a claim st Dad Ali, and consequently no title assed to the plaintiff as against Fegredo, essee of the widows, by the purchase of laintiff in execution.

disposing of this issue, we have to con-, as the Judge was directed to consider e order of remand, the effect of the ous litigation with reference to this erty, for, as observed by the learned s remanding the case, "it is matter consideration whether there was any-ng which prevented Dad Ali from him-f making the property wuqf, and ving it as such to his widows." Of se, if the question as to the property in ute had been determined by any judicial ions which are conclusive and binding the parties to this suit, there is, as erved by the remanding Judges, "an end he matter."

he previous litigation referred to has submitted to our consideration. It sists of two decisions, Nos. 7 and 8. , in the first place, the parties to the ent suit were not parties to the suits 7 and 8. The suit No. 7 was a claim e by Akburoonissa, one of the widows of Ali, against Sutto Buttee Dossee and rs in the summary department. Akbur-ssa's lease has been found to be valid as st the plaintiff in the present suit.

No. 7, the then Principal Sudder een, Mr. J. Reily, held that, although uroonissa was not a party to the pre-s litigation with respect to the endow-t by Khyrat Ali which had been found e not proved, yet, as she was the wife of Ali, she was bound by the decision ding that the endowment by Khyrat Ali not proved.

No. 8.—In this case the other widow joomoonissa was the claimant; Sutto But-and others were the opposite parties. this proceeding neither the plaintiff in this suit nor the defendant Fegredo was a party. Nujoomoonissa stated in that case that her husband Dad Ali had endowed the property now in dispute after an exchange with another property. The same Principal Sudder Ameen, Mr. J. Reily, relied upon his decision in No. 7, and rejected the claim of Nujoomoonissa. In neither of these proceedings can we find that the question of whether Dad Ali himself endowed the property in dispute and left it as such to his widows was decided. How the widow of Dad Ali was bound by any decision adverse to a claim set up by Khyrat Ali, simply because she is the widow of his grandson Dad Ali, it is not easy to understand. We can, therefore, have no hesitation in saying that there have been no decisions by any competent Courts which, on the question of whether the property was endowed by Dad Ali or not, are binding upon the parties to the present suit; and we concur with the first Court in holding that the former decisions did not dispose of the above question. There is evidence which was believed by the first Court, and which is not rejected or even touched upon by the Judge—that the profits of the endowed property were devoted to the purposes for which the endowment was created, and there is the very important fact noticed by the first Court, but wholly lost sight of by the Judge, that if this property had not been endowed, the two widows of Dad Ali would, under the Mahomedan Law, have inherited equally, and not have succeeded as trustees to the property in the proportion of 10 annas and 6 annas respectively.

We, therefore, concur with the first Court in holding that this property was endowed by Dad Ali, and as wuqf came into the hands of his widows as Mutawullees. Here we might well stop, but with reference to the letter of confirmation by Nujoomoonissa, we think that the Judge is clearly wrong. Nujoomoonissa was examined by commission, and she was not cross-examined as to the precise date on which the letter was written. The letter bears date prior to the attachment. Nujoomoonissa deposes as to the circumstances under which the letter was written; and being unable to read and write, she attested the letter by saying that the seal affixed to it was her seal, and that the letter was written with her consent.

The Judge is also wrong in saying that the defendant Fegredo does not in any "intelligible way fix the period at which the letter was written," for we find that Fegredo

does distinctly state the date of the letter, and when and under what circumstances it was written. The letter being in confirmation of the previous lease by Akburoonissa for the whole house, which has been found to be valid, and that lease and the letter confirming it by Nujoomoonissa being of date prior to plaintiff's attachment, plaintiff would be bound by both leases.

Having found, however, that the property was wuqf created by Dad Ali, and that his widows took the same as trustees of the endowment, and there being evidence not discredited or commented upon by the Judge, that the endowment was *bonâ fide* and the profits appropriated according to the terms of the trust, we dismiss the plaintiff's suit, and decree this appeal with costs of both Courts payable by the plaintiff, special respondent.

The cross-appeal of the plaintiff in the matter of the rate of rent is dismissed with costs.

The 23rd January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Section 347, Act VIII., 1859—Default—Re-admission.

Shomaed Ali Sowdagur, *Petitioner,*

versus

Eusoof Khan Chowdhry, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Bhugobutty Churn Ghose for Petitioner.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Opposite Party.

An appeal having been struck off for default, application was made for re-admission under Section 347, Act VIII. of 1859; but the Judge refused the application, because the appellant had not conformed to a rule which he had passed that two pleaders should be engaged in every appeal.

HELD that the Judge was bound to see whether the reasons set forth for re-admission of the appeal were satisfactory or not.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case it appears that the petitioner was the appellant in a certain appeal before the Judge of Chittagong. The appeal was called for hearing. But neither the appellant nor his vakeel being present, the appeal was struck off. Subsequently the applicant applied to the Court under Section 347, Act VIII. of 1859, for re-admission of the appeal, setting forth the reasons which prevented him from appearing when the appeal was called on for hearing.

The Judge disposes of this application by saying that, inasmuch as he had passed a rule that two pleaders should be engaged in every appeal, and the rule of his Court is the same as that existing in the High Court, he would not re-admit the appeal.

We think that the Judge was bound to see whether the reasons set forth in the application for the re-admission of the appeal were satisfactory or not. This he has not done. We send the case back to the Judge to act under the provisions of Section 347, and to consider whether a good ground has been shown for the re-admission of the appeal.

The 24th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Wrong-doer—Fraud—Civil Courts—Jurisdiction—Possession—Title.

Case No. 1193 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 22nd March 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Teghra, dated the 23rd July 1869.

Ram Sahoy Singh (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Kooldeep Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Nil Madhub Sein* for Appellant.

No one for Respondent.

A wrong-doer who has forcibly taken possession of another man's property is not entitled to withhold it from its lawful owner on the ground of a fraud which has in no way affected his own status or position.

Civil Courts have no power to interfere with the vested rights of parties merely by way of penalty, unless they are authorized to do so by positive legislative enactment.

Adverse possession for more than 12 years itself sufficient to create a title.

Mitter, J.—I AM of opinion that there is no ground for this special appeal

The plea of *bonâ-fide* purchase without notice is not available to the appellant who is merely the purchaser of the [illegible] title,

and interests of Gondee Singh at a sale in execution of decree, nor does it appear that this objection was ever urged or attempted to be proved in either of the Courts below.

The second objection appears equally unsound.

Granting that the vendors of the plaintiff had made the benamee for the purpose of depriving their creditors, the position of the appellant would still remain the same, namely, that of a mere trespasser. I have already expressed my opinion on this point, or rather on a point cognate to it, in the case reported in page 136 of the 12th Volume of the Weekly Reporter, and I still adhere to that opinion.

The suit is undoubtedly one of a civil nature, and there is no express law or enactment that I am aware of to bar its cognizance. The Civil Court is, therefore, bound to entertain it under the express provisions of Section 1, Act VIII. of 1859; and if this is once conceded, the only question we have to try is, whether the plaintiff or the appellant is the lawful owner of the property in dispute.

But the answer to this question seems to be perfectly plain. The right of property was vested in the vendors of the plaintiff, notwithstanding the fraudulent nature of the benamee: for a mere benameedar has no right of any kind whatever, there being no distinction between legal and equitable titles in this country.

Why then are we to dismiss this suit, merely because the vendors of the plaintiff had been guilty of a fraud against their creditors. The appellant has nothing whatever to do with those creditors, nor is the person through whom he derives his title wholly innocent of the fraud upon which he wishes to rely. What principle of justice or equity can he cite to support the contention that a mere wrong-doer like himself, who has forcibly taken possession of another man's property, is entitled to withhold that property from its lawful owner upon the ground of a fraud which has no way affected his own status or position, and which was perpetrated against persons to whom he is an utter stranger, and who would be placed in a much better position by the success of this suit than by its dismissal, if their claims are still alive! As between the plaintiff and the appellant, there can be no doubt whatever law and justice are both on the side of the former, for he is not only the legal owner, but a purchaser for value wholly innocent of the fraud, though he might have come to the knowledge of it at the time of his purchase. The appellant is clearly a trespasser, and I do not see any reason whatever why we should allow him to take shelter under a fraud which was jointly committed by his predecessor in title and the vendors of the plaintiff against persons whose interests are no way involved in this litigation.

It has been said that no one ought to be permitted to take advantage of his own fraud or of that of his predecessor in title. But what is the advantage which the plaintiff is endeavouring to take in this case, and against whom? All that the plaintiff asks for is that the appellant should be compelled to give up a property which is lawfully his, and from which he has been forcibly dispossessed by the appellant without the semblance of a title. Surely, there is nothing unreasonable or unfair in such a prayer, whatever fraud the vendors of the plaintiff might have committed against other parties who cannot be possibly prejudiced by the result of this suit. On the contrary, it is the appellant who is seeking to take advantage of that fraud, after having completely failed to justify the wrongful act of dispossession which has been brought home to him by the plaintiff. The objection that the plaintiff is trying to get rid of a deed executed by his vendors is one more of form than of substance; nor does it appear that that objection can fairly arise in this case. There are no such things as deeds, strictly so called, in this country, and the relief asked for by the plaintiff can be granted to him without the reversal or cancellation of any deed that I am aware of.

It has been further argued that the suppression of fraud is indispensibly necessary for the protection of society, and that the ends of public policy require the dismissal of such suits for the sake of example. But the Civil Courts have no power to interfere with the vested rights of parties merely by way of penalty, unless they are authorized to do so by some positive legislative enactment. No considerations of public policy can justify such a course, more specially when the Legislature has vested the Criminal Courts with full and ample jurisdiction in the matter. Suppose, for instance, that a just claim is foolishly attempted to be supported by a mass of perjury and forgery. The suppression of perjury and forgery is

does distinctly state the date of the letter, and when and under what circumstances it was written. The letter being in confirmation of the previous lease by Akburoonissa for the whole house, which has been found to be valid, and that lease and the letter confirming it by Nujoomoonissa being of date prior to plaintiff's attachment, plaintiff would be bound by both leases.

Having found, however, that the property was wuqf created by Dad Ali, and that his widows took the same as trustees of the endowment, and there being evidence not discredited or commented upon by the Judge, that the endowment was *bonâ fide* and the profits appropriated according to the terms of the trust, we dismiss the plaintiff's suit, and decree this appeal with costs of both Courts payable by the plaintiff, special respondent.

The cross-appeal of the plaintiff in the matter of the rate of rent is dismissed with costs.

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Baboo Bhugobutty Churn Ghose for Petitioner.

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An appeal having been struck off for default, application was made for re-admission under Section 347, Act VIII. of 1859; but the Judge refused the application, because the appellant had not conformed to a rule which he had passed that two pleaders should be engaged in every appeal.

HELD that the Judge was bound to see whether the reasons set forth for re-admission of the appeal were satisfactory or not.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case it appears that the petitioner was the appellant in a certain appeal before the Judge of Chittagong. The appeal was called for hearing. But neither the appellant nor his vakeel being present, the appeal was struck off. Subsequently the applicant applied to the Court under Section 347, Act VIII. of 1859, for re-admission of the appeal, setting forth the reasons which prevented him from appearing when the appeal was called on for hearing.

The Judge disposes of this application by saying that, inasmuch as he had passed a rule that two pleaders should be engaged in every appeal, and the rule of his Court is the same as that existing in the High Court, he would not re-admit the appeal.

We think that the Judge was bound to see whether the reasons set forth in the application for the re-admission of the appeal were satisfactory or not. This he has not done. We send the case back to the Judge to act under the provisions of Section 347, and to consider whether a good ground has been shown for the re-admission of the appeal.

The 24th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

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No one for Respondent.

A wrong-doer who has forcibly taken possession of another man's property is not entitled to withhold it from its lawful owner on the ground of a fraud which has in no way affected his own status or position.

Civil Courts have no power to interfere with the vested rights of parties merely by way of penalty, unless they are authorized to do so by positive legislative enactment.

Adverse possession for more than 12 years of its sufficient to create a title.

Mitter, J.—I AM of opinion there no ground for this special appeal

The plea of *bonâ-fide* purchase notice is not available to the appellant is merely the purchaser of the

and interests of Gondee Singh at a sale in execution of decree, nor does it appear that this objection was ever urged or attempted to be proved in either of the Courts below.

The second objection appears equally unsound.

Granting that the vendors of the plaintiff had made the benamee for the purpose of depriving their creditors, the position of the appellant would still remain the same, namely, that of a mere trespasser. I have already expressed my opinion on this point, or rather on a point cognate to it, in the case reported in page 136 of the 12th Volume of the Weekly Reporter, and I still adhere to that opinion.

The suit is undoubtedly one of a civil nature, and there is no express law or enactment that I am aware of to bar its cognizance. The Civil Court is, therefore, bound to entertain it under the express provisions of Section 1, Act VIII. of 1859; and if this is once conceded, the only question we have to try is, whether the plaintiff or the appellant is the lawful owner of the property in dispute.

But the answer to this question seems to be perfectly plain. The right of property was vested in the vendors of the plaintiff, notwithstanding the fraudulent nature of the benamee; for a mere benameedar has no right of any kind whatever, there being no distinction between legal and equitable titles in this country.

Why then are we to dismiss this suit, merely because the vendors of the plaintiff had been guilty of a fraud against their creditors. The appellant has nothing whatever to do with those creditors, nor is the person through whom he derives his title wholly innocent of the fraud upon which he wishes to rely. What principle of justice or equity can he cite to support the contention that a mere wrong-doer like himself, who has forcibly taken possession of another man's property, is entitled to withhold that property from its lawful owner upon the ground of a [illegible]d which has no way affected his own [illegible]us or position, and which was perpetr[illegible] against persons to whom he is an utter[illegible]nger, and who would be placed in a m[illegible] better position by the success of this [illegible]han by its dismissal, if their claims [illegible]alive! As between the plaintiff and [illegible]ellant, there can be no doubt what[illegible]w and justice are both on the [illegible] former, for he is not only the legal owner, but a purchaser for value wholly innocent of the fraud, though he might have come to the knowledge of it at the time of his purchase. The appellant is clearly a trespasser, and I do not see any reason whatever why we should allow him to take shelter under a fraud which was jointly committed by his predecessor in title and the vendors of the plaintiff against persons whose interests are no way involved in this litigation.

It has been said that no one ought to be permitted to take advantage of his own fraud or of that of his predecessor in title. But what is the advantage which the plaintiff is endeavouring to take in this case, and against whom? All that the plaintiff asks for is that the appellant should be compelled to give up a property which is lawfully his, and from which he has been forcibly dispossessed by the appellant without the semblance of a title. Surely, there is nothing unreasonable or unfair in such a prayer, whatever fraud the vendors of the plaintiff might have committed against other parties who cannot be possibly prejudiced by the result of this suit. On the contrary, it is the appellant who is seeking to take advantage of that fraud, after having completely failed to justify the wrongful act of dispossession which has been brought home to him by the plaintiff. The objection that the plaintiff is trying to get rid of a deed executed by his vendors is one more of form than of substance; nor does it appear that that objection can fairly arise in this case. There are no such things as deeds, strictly so called, in this country, and the relief asked for by the plaintiff can be granted to him without the reversal or cancellation of any deed that I am aware of.

It has been further argued that the suppression of fraud is indispensibly necessary for the protection of society, and that the ends of public policy require the dismissal of such suits for the sake of example. But the Civil Courts have no power to interfere with the vested rights of parties merely by way of penalty, unless they are authorized to do so by some positive legislative enactment. No considerations of public policy can justify such a course, more specially when the Legislature has vested the Criminal Courts with full and ample jurisdiction in the matter. Suppose, for instance, that a just claim is foolishly attempted to be supported by a mass of perjury and forgery. The suppression of perjury and forgery is

does distinctly state the date of the letter, and when and under what circumstances it was written. The letter being in confirmation of the previous lease by Akburoonissa for the whole house, which has been found to be valid, and that lease and the letter confirming it by Nujoomoonissa being of date prior to plaintiff's attachment, plaintiff would be bound by both leases.

Having found, however, that the property was wuqf created by Dad Ali, and that his widows took the same as trustees of the endowment, and there being evidence not discredited or commented upon by the Judge, that the endowment was *bonâ fide* and the profits appropriated according to the terms of the trust, we dismiss the plaintiff's suit, and decree this appeal with costs of both Courts payable by the plaintiff, special respondent.

The cross-appeal of the plaintiff in the matter of the rate of rent is dismissed with costs.

The 23rd January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Section 347, Act VIII., 1859—Default—Re-admission.

Shomaed Ali Sowdagur, *Petitioner,*

versus

Eusoof Khan Chowdhry, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Bhugobutty Churn Ghose for Petitioner.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Opposite Party.

An appeal having been struck off for default, application was made for re-admission under Section 347, Act VIII. of 1859; but the Judge refused the application, because the appellant had not conformed to a rule which he had passed that two pleaders should be engaged in every appeal.

HELD that the Judge was bound to see whether the reasons set forth for re-admission of the appeal were satisfactory or not.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case it appears that the petitioner was the appellant in a certain appeal before the Judge of Chittagong. The appeal was called for hearing. But neither the appellant nor his vakeel being present, the appeal was struck off. Subsequently the applicant applied to the Court under Section 347, Act VIII. of 1859, for re-admission of the appeal, setting forth the reas which prevented him from appearing w the appeal was called on for hearing.

The Judge disposes of this application saying that, inasmuch as he had pass rule that two pleaders should be engage every appeal, and the rule of his Co the same as that existing in the High C he would not re-admit the appeal.

We think that the Judge was bound to whether the reasons set forth in the app tion for the re-admission of the appeal satisfactory or not. This he has not d We send the case back to the Judge to under the provisions of Section 347, an consider whether a good ground has shown for the re-admission of the appeal

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The 24th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarka Mitter, *Judges.*

Wrong-doer—Fraud—Civil Courts—Juris tion—Possession—Title.

Case No. 1193 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugul dated the 22nd March 1870, affirmi decision of the Moonsiff of Teghra, d the 23rd July 1869.

Ram Sahoy Singh (one of the Defendan *Appellant,*

versus

Kooldeep Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Ni Madhub Sein* for Appellant.

No one for Respondent.

A wrong-doer who has forcibly taken possession another man's property is not entitled to with it from its lawful owner on the ground of a fraud w has in no way affected his own status or position.

Civil Courts have no power to interfere with vested rights of parties merely by way of penalty, less they are authorized to do so by positive legisla enactment.

Adverse possession for more than 12 years is of it sufficient to create a title.

Mitter, J.—I AM of opinion that there no ground for this special appeal.

The plea of *bonâ-fide* purchaser witho notice is not available to the appellant, w is merely the purchaser of the right, tit

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t interests of Gondee Singh at a sale in cution of decree, nor does it appear that objection was ever urged or attempted e proved in either of the Courts below.

he second objection appears equally un-d.

ranting that the vendors of the plaintiff made the benamee for the purpose of iving their creditors, the position of the llant would still remain the same, name-at of a mere trespasser. I have already essed my opinion on this point, or rather point cognate to it, in the case reported ge 136 of the 12th Volume of the ly Reporter, and I still adhere to that on.

e suit is undoubtedly one of a civil e, and there is no express law or en-ent that I am aware of to bar its cog-nce. The Civil Court is, therefore, d to entertain it under the express pro-ns of Section 1, Act VIII. of 1859; and is once conceded, the only question we to try is, whether the plaintiff or the llant is the lawful owner of the property spute.

t the answer to this question seems to erfectly plain. The right of property vested in the vendors of the plaintiff, thstanding the fraudulent nature of the mee; for a mere benameedar has no right ny kind whatever, there being no dis-tion between legal and equitable titles in country.

hy then are we to dismiss this suit, ly because the vendors of the plaintiff been guilty of a fraud against their tors. The appellant has nothing what-to do with those creditors, nor is the on through whom he derives his title ly innocent of the fraud upon which he es to rely. What principle of justice or y can he cite to support the contention a mere wrong-doer like himself, who has bly taken possession of another man's erty, is entitled to withhold that pro-y from its lawful owner upon the ground fraud which has no way affected his status or position, and which was per-ated against persons to whom he is an stranger, and who would be placed in uch better position by the success of suit than by its dismissal, if their claims still alive! As between the plaintiff and appellant, there can be no doubt what-that law and justice are both on the of the former, for he is not only the legal owner, but a purchaser for value wholly innocent of the fraud, though he might have come to the knowledge of it at the time of his purchase. The appellant is clearly a trespasser, and I do not see any reason whatever why we should allow him to take shelter under a fraud which was jointly committed by his predecessor in title and the vendors of the plaintiff against persons whose interests are no way involved in this litigation.

It has been said that no one ought to be permitted to take advantage of his own fraud or of that of his predecessor in title. But what is the advantage which the plaintiff is endeavouring to take in this case, and against whom? All that the plaintiff asks for is that the appellant should be compelled to give up a property which is lawfully his, and from which he has been forcibly dispossessed by the appellant without the semblance of a title. Surely, there is nothing unreasonable or unfair in such a prayer, whatever fraud the vendors of the plaintiff might have committed against other parties who cannot be possibly prejudiced by the result of this suit. On the contrary, it is the appellant who is seeking to take advantage of that fraud, after having completely failed to justify the wrongful act of dispossession which has been brought home to him by the plaintiff. The objection that the plaintiff is trying to get rid of a deed executed by his vendors is one more of form than of substance; nor does it appear that that objection can fairly arise in this case. There are no such things as deeds, strictly so called, in this country, and the relief asked for by the plaintiff can be granted to him without the reversal or cancellation of any deed that I am aware of.

It has been further argued that the suppression of fraud is indispensibly necessary for the protection of society, and that the ends of public policy require the dismissal of such suits for the sake of example. But the Civil Courts have no power to interfere with the vested rights of parties merely by way of penalty, unless they are authorized to do so by some positive legislative enactment. No considerations of public policy can justify such a course, more specially when the Legislature has vested the Criminal Courts with full and ample jurisdiction in the matter. Suppose, for instance, that a just claim is foolishly attempted to be supported by a mass of perjury and forgery. The suppression of perjury and forgery is

just as much necessary for the protection of society as that of fraud. But the Privy Council have held that the Civil Court has no power to repudiate the civil rights of parties, merely because they have tried to support them by perjury and forgery; and I do not see any reason whatever why the same principle should not be extended to a case of fraud like the present.

But there is another ground also upon which I would dismiss this special appeal. Both the Lower Courts have concurrently found that the vendors of the plaintiff were in possession from the date of their purchase down to that of their dispossession by the appellant, that is to say, for a period of more than 12 years. Adverse possession for such a length of time is by itself sufficient to create a title, according to the ruling of the Privy Council in the case of Gunga Gobind Mundul,* and the plaintiff is, therefore, entitled to recover the property irrespective of any question of fraud or benamee.

For the above reasons, I would dismiss this special appeal with costs.

Bayley, J.—I concur in dismissing this special appeal. There is the fact found that plaintiff's vendors had possession under an adverse title for more than 12 years, and such possession gives title in such a case as this.

The 24th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Mahomedan widow—Dower—Possession.

Case No. 1389 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Gya, dated the 27th April 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 28th September 1870.

Kureem Buksh Khan and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Mussamut Doolhin Khoord and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Moonshee Mahomed Yusoof for Appellants.

* 7 W. R., P. C., p. 21.

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Bood Sein Singh* for Respondents.

In a suit against a Mahomedan widow by her band's heir to recover possession of property her in virtue of a claim for dower, should proof cible dispossession fail and no other origin of ant's possession be alleged, a Court would be ju in finding, as a matter of inference, that the had got into possession on the ground alleged by with the consent of the other heirs.

Jackson, J.—THIS was a suit agai Mahomedan widow to recover possessio certain immoveable property, the pl claiming to be the heir of that lady's ceased husband and of the infant da of that husband also deceased. The p sets forth that the plaintiff had bee possession of the property in question, had been dispossessed by the act of widow, who wrongfully gave the shar question in lease to a different party.

The defendant, the widow, averred she was in possession of this propert virtue of a claim on the estate of her band for dower which was then unsatisfi

The Courts below have both held plaintiff, although entitled as heir, c not recover possession of the property the hands of the widow, inasmuch as was entitled to hold it in virtue of her on account of her dower.

Several cases have been cited in argu upon this special appeal, one of them VIII. Weekly Reporter, page 5, which a decision of Mr. Justice Norman and Justice Seton-Karr, and the others from Weekly Reporter, page 212, XIII. We Reporter, page 49, and XIV. Weekly porter, page 239. In the first of these ca the view of the Mahomedan Law which been adopted by the Lower Courts is broadly stated. In the other cases, howe the Judges appear to have taken a some different view, and to have restricted right of a Mahomedan widow to hold way of lien to cases in which there has b a contract enabling her to do so, and cases where she had got into possession the consent of the heirs.

Now, in this case, the facts are—that husband of the defendant died about 8 y before the commencement of the suit. plaintiff alleged forcible dispossession, the proof of that forcible dispossession fail and no other origin of the defendant's p sessions has been suggested by plaintiff, c cept that forcible possession the proof which failed. That being so, I think th Courts below would have been justified i finding, as a matter of inference, that th

ndant had, in fact, got into possession of property as widow, with the consent the other heirs of the husband, in satis-on of her claim of dower.

he fact of dower has been admitted ughout, and, indeed, it appears that tiff's counsel, on questions being put m, did also admit the amount of dower ated by defendant. This latter admis-however, which is now repudiated, ap-to be immaterial. When the plaintiff s fit to bring a suit against the defend-for an account of her husband's estate, h she holds in lieu of her claim for with interest, that will be the proper to determine what the dower really was, how matters stand between the widow the heirs. At present, all that can be mined is, whether the plaintiff is en-to recover possession of the estate the hands of the widow when the claim ower remains unsatisfied.

ppears to me that, under the circum-es of the case, we ought to hold that idow's possession was referable to her for dower; and that, as that claim has ubtedly, under the Mahomedan Law, dence over the claim of the heirs, the should not be allowed to succeed in this and turn her out of possession without ying her claim.

hat being so, I think the suit ought to been dismissed; and, therefore, that appeal ought to be dismissed with costs.

inslie, J.—I concur.

The 24th January 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Onus probandi.

Cases Nos. 1810 and 1811 of 1870.

ial Appeals from a decision passed by e Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 1st une 1870, affirming a decision of the ubordinate Judge of that District, ated the 29th March 1869.

P. T. Onraet and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Kishen Soonduree Dossee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Nil Madhub Sein* for Appellant.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

In the suit for the removal of certain outlets made by defendant in an aqueduct, on the ground that plaintiff was entitled to the exclusive use of the water of the aqueduct, where the defence set up was that the portion of the aqueduct to which the dispute related was where water flowed through the lands of the defendant's zemindary:

HELD that it was for plaintiff to make good the title he alleged.

Mitter, J.—THESE special appeals are admitted to be governed by one and the same decision here.

This suit was instituted by the plaintiff for the removal of three *singhas* or outlets made by the defendant in a certain aqueduct called the Rajdar, upon the ground that she was entitled to the exclusive use of the waters of that aqueduct.

The defence set up was that the portion of the aqueduct in which the disputed *singhas* have been constructed is where water flows through the lands of the defendant's zemindary, and that the plaintiff has no right to the exclusive use of the water thereof.

Both the Lower Courts gave a decree to the plaintiff upon the ground that the defendant had failed to prove that the *singhas* in question were ancient constructions, as alleged by him in his written statement; and that the plaintiff's title to the exclusive use of the waters of the Rajdar had been established in the case reported in page 218 of the Sudder Dewanny Decisions for 1856.

We are of opinion that the mode in which the Lower Courts have dealt with this case is erroneous in law.

The defendant was not a party to the above case of 1856, and it is, therefore, clear that the decision passed in that case cannot be used as evidence against him.

Besides, it is manifest that that decision related to a branch of the Rajdar distinct from the one now in dispute. Both the branches may be called by one and the same name; but this circumstance is by no means sufficient to render a decision passed with reference to one of them necessarily applicable to the other.

Moreover, the said decision was passed upon the ground that the branch of the Rajdar then in dispute flowed through lands

belonging to the plaintiff's zemindary; and the learned Judges were, therefore, quite justified in holding that it was upon the defendant to show by what right he claimed to use the waters of an aqueduct constructed by the plaintiff upon her own land and at her own expense. The defendant in the present case has been throughout contending that the land through which the disputed branch flows does not belong to the plaintiff, and it was, therefore, for the plaintiff to show that she was entitled to use it exclusively for her own purposes.

The case is, therefore, remanded to the Lower Appellate Court for the determination of the question how and upon what title the plaintiff has proved his claim to an exclusive right to the use of the waters of the disputed portion of the Rajdar. The costs of this appeal and of the Lower Courts will abide the ultimate result.

The 27th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Rights—Prescription—Issues.

Case No. 1327 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 26th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 28th December 1869.

Bhoobun Mohun Mundul and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Rash Beharee Paul (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

In a suit for the removal of a pucca building recently erected by defendant upon land lying between the premises of the two parties to the dispute, where plaintiff's claim to use the land had been put upon his title as owner:

HELD that, having failed to make out the case originally set forth in the plaint, plaintiff had no right to fall back upon a title by prescription.

HELD that plaintiff's claim must stand or fall upon the strength of his own right, not upon any such finding as that defendant was not entitled to the exclusive use of the land.

Mitter, J.—THE dispute in this case lates to a small piece of land lying tween the premises of the two contem parties.

The defendant has recently erecte pucca building upon this land, and the pl iff seeks to have that building demoli upon three distinct grounds, namely, that a portion of the land upon which building has been erected is his own perty; secondly, that he has a presc right to use the remainder as a path and, thirdly, that the erection of the bui has deprived him of the use of light air in his own house.

The Moonsiff, who tried this case in first instance, after holding a local in gation in person, and going carefully thr the evidence on the record, came to conclusion that the action was withou valid foundation whatever. He found the plaintiff had completely failed to that he was entitled to any portion o land in dispute, that the alleged rig way did not exist, and that the mer struction of one out of several ope in the plaintiff's kitchen could not e him, in the absence of all proof of right, to have the defendant's building down.

This decision has been reversed by Judge on appeal, and the present s appeal has been accordingly preferred by the defendant.

We are of opinion that the decision o Lower Appellate Court is erroneous an just. After giving a short abstract o Moonsiff's decision, the learned Judge go to say: "The erection of this new bui "has deprived the plaintiff necessari "air and light, and has subjected hi "*other inconvenience*, as, for instance "diminishing his facilities of repairing "wall; and if the defendant has infri "on the plaintiff's right, whether of "*ment or otherwise*, the plaintiff has a c "of action, and he may claim to exe "the right which he previously hel "opening doors and windows on the "side of his house into the lane, if "lane existed." This is all that the lea Judge has said upon the plaintiff's pa the case, and we are clearly of opinion th is altogether insufficient to meet the req ments of the suit. The onus of proof clearly upon the plaintiff, and it was, there for him to make out, not merely that he been subjected to some inconvenience by

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tion of the building, but that he has gal right to have that building demo- ed.

With reference to the alleged obstruc- of light and air, which has been so much d upon by the learned Judge, we have ly to remark that the plaintiff has given vidence of any kind whatever to prove he is entitled to have that obstruction ved. It is true that the erection of the ing has deprived him of the use of one of several openings in his kitchen; but s not been able to adduce a particle of , oral or documentary, to establish that entitled to the unobstructed use of opening, either by grant or by pre- ion.

e other inconvenience relied upon by the d Judge is the diminution of the plaint- facilities of repairing his wall." On oint, also, the learned Judge seems to fallen into a very serious error. The t up by the plaintiff was that a portion e disputed land was his own property, hat he had reserved it specially for the e of enabling himself to repair his wall necessary. The Moonsiff dismissed ortion of the claim, as we have already ved, upon the ground that the plaintiff iven no evidence of any kind whatever pport it. This is not disputed. On the rary, it is admitted before us by the der for the plaintiff that his client did prefer any appeal to the learned Judge t that portion of the Moonsiff's decision. then, it may be asked, is the plaintiff e the defendant's building pulled down, because "his facilities of repairing ll have been diminished," as the learned says? If the disputed land does not to him, he has no right to use that for the purpose of repairing his wall. s been argued that there is evidence e record to show that the plaintiff had the disputed land once or twice for such pose, and that the Judge ought to be d upon to state his opinion as to whether vidence is not sufficient to make out a by prescription in the plaintiff's favor. are of opinion that this argument is of no whatever. The plaintiff's claim to use land in question, for the purpose of re- g his wall, was expressly put upon the d of his title as owner, and we do not that he has any right to fall back upon le by prescription after having signally d to make out the case originally set h in the plaint. The learned Judge speaks of the plaintiff's right "whether of easement or otherwise;" but he was bound, in our opinion, to state specifically and precisely what that right was. We have gone through the evidence on the record, and we feel no hesitation in saying that the plaintiff has given no proof of right of any kind whatever.

The remaining part of the Judge's decision merely goes to show that the defendant is not entitled to the exclusive use of the land in dispute, but that there are other parties (no way connected with the plaintiff, however) who are also entitled to use it. But neither of these findings, if findings they may be called, can give any right to the plaintiff to have the building demolished, for his claim must stand or fall upon the strength of his own right, and not upon the weakness of the defendant's.

For the above reasons, we reverse the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, and restore that of the Court of first instance with all the costs incurred by the defendant, both in the Lower Appellate Court and in this Court.

The 27th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Loss of reputation—Damages.

Case No. 1722 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 21st May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Amdahara, dated the 11th February 1870.

Madhub Chunder Sircar (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Banee Madhub Roy (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Khettur Mohun Mookerjee for Respondent.

Where a false charge led to a party's being prevented going to his house until he had furnished bail, he was held to have suffered inconvenience and loss of reputation, for which an award of 20 rupees as damages was not unreasonable.

Glover, J.—THERE is no ground for this special appeal. It has been found as a fact that the defendant did bring a false charge

against the plaintiff, and that, in consequence of that false charge, the plaintiff was put to considerable inconvenience, and suffered loss of reputation, having been held to bail by the criminal authorities, and prevented from going to his house until he had furnished such bail. There can be no question that this was productive of inconvenience and loss of reputation to the plaintiff, and the award of 20 rupees as damages was by no means an unreasonable one under the circumstances of the case. We, therefore, dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 27th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Special Appeal — Contract — Debt — Section 6, Act XI. of 1865.

Case No. 1730 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Kajshahye, dated the 24th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 22nd March 1870.

Rash Monee Debia (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Rajah Ram Sircar (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Appellant.

Baboo Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee for Respondent.

A servant borrowed on account of his master a sum of money which was partly spent in satisfaction of his master's debt, and partly taken by the latter and spent for his own private purposes. No re-payment having been made by the master, the lenders took out a decree against the servant, who thereafter sued the master to recover the money.

HELD that the legal presumption was that the money was advanced on account of defendant on the understanding that it would be repaid; and that the action was one for debt within the meaning of Section 6 of the Small Cause Court Act.

Bayley, J.—I AM clearly of opinion that no special appeal will lie in this case.

The facts are these: The plaintiff, who was a servant of the defendant, went to some mohajuns, and borrowed a certain sum of money, which was applied in the following manner, *viz.*, a portion was spent in satisfaction of the debt of the defendant, and the was taken and spent for the defendant's private purposes. No re-payment of money was made by the defendant to plaintiff, and a decree was taken out by lenders of the money against the pla After this decree, the plaintiff brings suit, and asks for re-payment of the which he borrowed, and spent, and over for the defendant's purposes.

The preliminary objection taken by respondent to the hearing of the sp appeal is to the effect that no sp appeal would lie, as the suit is debt under 500 rupees. On the other it is contended that there was no plied contract between the parties; th cannot be shown when the liability menced and when it ceases; and that, fore, the transaction bore no such cha as would bring it within the Small Court Act. A case reported at Vo VII., page 377, Weekly Reporter, has cited in support of this contention.

The facts stated at the commence of this judgment are admitted on both and it seems to be quite clear that, w party under such a state of facts ask the re-payment of the money, he sues debt within the substantial meaning of tion 6 of the Small Cause Court Act.

The case cited is altogether a case different nature. It was a special ca the liability of co-sharers in a joint vided revenue-paying estate to pay quota of Government revenue, and the question there turned on the position co-sharers and the liability of the esta account of the non-payment of the ar of Government revenue. It was there that, in the event of such payments by co-sharer and a suit for contribution th upon, the case does not come within purview of Section 6, Act XI. of 1865. this case, however, there is no such spec ty. It is a case for money borrowed and on account of the defendant, and, it be legally supposed, upon an understand that the defendant will repay the money the plaintiff.

In this view, I think the case is one a nature cognizable by a Court of Sm Causes, and, as such, no special appeal lie.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

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Mitter, J.—I think this action was one for debt. Upon the facts stated on the record, it appears that the plaintiff advanced a certain sum of money to the defendant for a particular purpose, and that there was an understanding between them that the money should be repaid by the latter. The value of the suit being below Rupees 500, no special appeal lies to this Court under the provisions of Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861.

The 27th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Accretions—Section 4, Regulation XI. of 1825.

Case No. 1738 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Rajshahye, dated the 24th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Pubna, dated the 31st December 1869.

Gobind Monee Debia (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Kino Bundhoo Shaha and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Bhugobutty Churn Ghose* for Respondents.

Where lands become annexed to a jote by gradual accretion within the meaning of Section 4, Regulation XI. of 1825, the jotedar is entitled to hold them on the same principle, and under the same legal conditions, as he holds the parent estate.

Mitter, J.—The first question which the Lower Courts had to determine in this case was, whether the lands in dispute had been annexed to the plaintiff's jote by gradual accretion, within the meaning of Clause 1, Section 4, Regulation XI. of 1825. Both the Lower Courts, however, have dismissed the suit on the ground that, the Government being the owner or proprietor of the chur, the plaintiff has no right to sue for the reversal of the settlement made by Government with the defendant, or for possession of the lands in question.

We are of opinion that this judgment is erroneous. The Government, no doubt, is admitted on all sides to be the proprietor of the lands; but if the lands were annexed to the plaintiff's jote by gradual accretion, the plaintiff would be entitled to hold them precisely on the same principle and under the same legal conditions as he would be entitled to hold the parent estate to which they have accreted. This point has been frequently ruled by the Court, and all that we have now to say is that the words of Clause 1, Section 4, Regulation XI. of 1825, are clear, and cannot be overlooked.

We, therefore, remand the case to the first Court with directions to make the Government a party to the suit, and then to decide it on the issues arising from the pleadings.

The costs of this appeal will abide the ultimate result.

The 27th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Refusal to examine witnesses — Special appeal.

Case No. 1753 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 11th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of Monghyr, dated the 7th January 1870.

Osman Singh and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Chummun Mahtoon and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. K. E. Twidale for Appellants.

Baboo Motee Lall Mookerjee for Respondents.

Where any real grievance or other just cause of complaint arises to a plaintiff from the first Court's refusal to examine his witnesses, his first duty is to bring the matter prominently to the notice of the Lower Appellate Court in his grounds of appeal. Failing to do so, he cannot be allowed to urge it as a plea in special appeal.

Bayley, J.—THERE is no ground for this special appeal.

The main objection is that, on various occasions, it was brought to the notice of the first Court that the witnesses for the special appellant were present in Court, and yet they were not examined.

Now, looking to the record, it, no doubt, appears that there were most unreasonable adjournments and delays in the examination of the witnesses, and this Court would have taken further notice of the matter had the jurisdiction of the Deputy Collector over such cases remained; but if there were any real grievance or any just cause of complaint, or any obvious injustice caused to the special appellant by the refusal of the Court to examine his witnesses, his first duty would have been to bring the matter prominently to the notice of the Lower Appellate Court in his grounds of appeal; but he totally neglected to do so, and only after the case was decided against him by the Lower Appellate Court on other grounds did he take the objection by way of review, and now urges it before this Court as a point of special appeal. We quite agree with the learned Counsel, Mr. Twidale, that it is the duty of this Court to redress the grievances arising to parties from the neglect of the Courts below in matters of this kind; but at the same time it cannot be denied that, in this particular case, if any real grievance had been caused to the special appellant by the omission of the first Court to examine his witnesses, he would and should have first urged it as a preliminary and prominent point of appeal before the Judge, and not that point only for a special plea in this Court in the last stage of the special appeal.

In this view, we think this special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The 30th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkan Mitter, *Judges.*

Witnesses—Notice.

Case No. 420 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order pas by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpo dated the 9th July 1870.

Mussamut Mussitee Khanum (Claimant), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Hookoom Bibee and another (Opposite Party), *Respondents.*

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Appellant.

Baboos Debendro Narain Bose and *Kale Kishen Sein* for Respondents.

After a list of witnesses has been filed and the *tulluba ana* paid, the Court's officers, not the applicant, responsible for the service and return of notice.

Bayley, J.—IN this case, we think th justice requires that the order of the Subo dinate Judge must be reversed.

On the 15th June 1870, an order wa passed that the case be taken up on the 9th July, and that the applicant do, in the meantime, file his issumnuvisee or list of witnesses.

On the 29th June, the applicant not only put in the list of witnesses, but did also on that day pay in the tullubana, and thus completed all that *he* was required to do under the law. This gave a period of 10 days before the day fixed for hearing. For the proceedings that were taken within this

terval of 10 days, the applicant was not sponsible, but the Court-officers. The rvice of notice and the return thereof re acts in the hands of the Court and its ficers.

We think the order of the Subordinate dge must be reversed, and the case remanded to him to hear the witnesses whom the ppellant named in his issumnuvisee, and r whose appearance he paid tullubana, if duced within a reasonable time to be ed by the Lower Court.

The case is accordingly remanded to be ed on its merits.

The 30th January 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Debt—Partnership-accounts.

Case No. 669 of 1870.

ecial Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Backergunge, dated the 19th January 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Burrisaul, dated the 13th January 1869.

am Kanaye Shaha and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

ykuntnath Shaha (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Appellants.

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Respondent.

Where defendant had been plaintiff's servant in charge of plaintiff's shop, on the understanding that he was to be remunerated by a small share of the profits in lieu of fixed wages, a suit to recover the balance after deduction of such remuneration was held to be a suit on a demand cognizable by a Small Cause Court, and not for balance of partnership-account.

Mitter, J.—I AM of opinion that there is no special appeal in this case.

The suit was brought for the recovery of a sum of money below 500 rupees, alleged to have been misappropriated by the defendant whilst he was employed as a gomasta in the plaintiff's shop. Such a suit is clearly cognizable by the Court of Small Causes. Whether the accounts between the parties have been adjusted and the balance struck or not, it is evident that those accounts cannot be treated as partnership-accounts. The defendant was employed as a servant, and the mere fact that he was to receive a certain portion of the profits of the shop cannot convert this suit into a suit for balance of partnership-account. But if this suit was really cognizable by the Court of Small Causes, the Lower Courts had no jurisdiction to try it. There is a Court of Small Causes at Nulchitee, and that Court was fully competent to try it. It is much to be regretted that the Judge of the Small Cause Court of Nulchitee had, on a previous occasion, refused to entertain this claim upon the ground that it was a claim for balance of partnership-account. But as the question is one of jurisdiction, I feel myself bound to set aside the decisions of both the Lower Courts under the powers vested in me by the 15th Section of the Charter Act. I would, therefore, set aside the decisions of both the Lower Courts; but under the circumstances stated above, I would order that each party ought to bear his own costs in all the Courts.

Jackson, J.—I agree that this was not a suit on a balance of partnership-account, although the plaintiff, misled by the erroneous dictum of the Small Cause Court, did his best to make it so.

The defendant was plaintiff's servant in charge of his shop, and was to be remunerated by a small share of the profits instead of fixed wages. What the plaintiff sought to recover was the amount which he found ought to have been in defendant's hands after deduction of the amount coming to him for his remuneration.

This was a debt or demand really recoverable in the Small Cause Court, and the jurisdiction of the ordinary Civil Courts was accordingly varied.

I, therefore, concur in the opinion that we ought to set aside the proceedings in the Courts below.

But, in my opinion, the plaintiff will in this way suffer cruel injustice, unless we go further, and, under our general power of superintendence, also set aside the improper order of the Small Cause Court declining jurisdiction, and require that Court to receive the plaint and dispose of the suit as originally presented.

This, accordingly, is the order which I propose to make.

Mitter, J.—I agree with my learned colleague in directing the Small Cause Court to receive the plaint.

The 30th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Section 15, Charter Act.

Kalee Hur Doss, *Petitioner,*

versus

Roodressur Chuckerbutty, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Nuleet Chunder Sein for Petitioner.

Baboo Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty for Opposite Party.

Mere errors of law committed by a Lower Appellate Court in cases in which the High Court has no appellate jurisdiction do not give the latter Court power to interfere under Section 15 of the Charter Act, its interference being restricted to cases in which the Lower Court exercises a jurisdiction which it has not, or refuses to exercise a jurisdiction which it has.

Loch, J.—We think that this rule must be discharged with costs.

Objections have been taken to the proceedings of the Lower Courts, especially to the of the Subordinate Judge; first of all, he has exercised a jurisdiction which is vested in him by law; and next, that he refused to exercise jurisdiction when ought to have done so.

With regard to the first point, it is that he has re-opened and tried a que disposed of by the Judge and by the Court in execution of a former decree tained by the opposite party.

As to the second point, it is objected he has refused to exercise jurisdiction not ascertaining the amount of mesne fits to which the petitioner before us co ders himself to be entitled.

A great deal of confusion has entered to this case, owing to the peculiar natu the talook in question as it was origi constituted and the shares into which was subsequently sub-divided, by which talook was divided into two; one part b ing a jumma of 24 rupees, and the othe jumma of 10 rupees, both known as Doo Pershad—Kisto Pershad.

With the talook of 10 rupees we h nothing to do at present; it is only the talook of 24 rupees that we have to d and, keeping this in view, the question fore us is very simple.

It appears that the opposite party in case obtained a decree for 10 annas gundahs of this talook against the p tioner; that he wanted to obtain possess of the whole of the talook, having purcha 16 gundahs of it in execution of a dec for costs, so making his share 11½ ann and he contended that, under that decree, was entitled to the entire talook.

The Lower Appellate Court and High Court held that he was only entit to 11½ annas of the talook bearing a jum of 24 rupees.

The petitioner, who was the defend in that case, then applied to recover poss sion of 4½ annas of the talook of whic he alleged he had been dispossessed by t opposite party in execution of his decre and, as he states, he obtained an order fro the Moonsiff bearing date the 22nd January 1869 putting him into possessio of that share. This having been *done,* h

ght an action to recover mesne-profits the time during which he was kept out possession.

oth the Courts below have dismissed this and the Lower Appellate Court in its ment said that the talook bearing a ma of 24 rupees is divided into two , namely, 4½ annas in the possession of oora Soonduree and another person, and nnas which belonged to the opposite in this case under his decree and by on-purchase; and therefore there was ng for the petitioner to obtain, and he to show that he (petitioner) had ob- possession under the order of the iff.

w, as the judgment of the Lower Ap- e Court in this case merely declares e opposite party has a right to 11½ in the estate with a jumma of 24 it has said nothing contrary to had been said by the High Court and e Judge when they disposed of the r in the execution-case.

ere may perhaps be some mistake with d to the possession of the remaining nnas. The Judge may be in error in g that it was in the possession of Tri- Soonduree and the other lady, and e told that he *is* in error on this point; even if his judgment is erroneous, we t say that the Subordinate Judge has sed a jurisdiction which is not vested n by law. It may be a mistake which e rectified by an application to him to his order; but it is not certainly a to be brought before us, and regard- hich we should be called upon to exer- our extraordinary powers under the er.

n as to the other point, namely, that Court below had refused to exercise diction, all that it did do was this; it to the plaintiff: "You have failed to e your case; and failing to do so, you not get a decree for mesne-profits." his we cannot say that the Court has d to exercise a jurisdiction which it to have exercised.

r the above reasons, we think that the must be discharged with costs, which sess at 2 gold mohurs.

ookerjee, J.—I agree in discharging the with costs. The suit being for a sum money below 500 rupees, it is clear we have no appellate jurisdiction. The petitioner has invoked our special power under Section 15 of the Charter on the grounds stated by my learned colleague. I do not think that mere errors of law committed by a Judge on appeal in such cases give us jurisdiction under the Section quoted. I am of opinion that probably the Judge is wrong, and has confounded the old 4½ annas share of Tripoora Soonduree with the 4½ annas in the jumma of Rupees 24. If it is so, the remedy lies in an application to him, and not by one in this Court. It is only in cases where the Lower Appellate Court has exercised jurisdiction where it has none by law, or has refused to exercise jurisdiction where it clearly has, that we can interfere. This is not a case of that nature. We are, therefore, unable to interfere with his decision, even if it is wrong in law or has proceeded from a misconception of the facts of the case.

The 30th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Special appeal—Enhancement of rent—Excess lands.

Case No. 1763 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Purneah, dated the 23rd June 1870, affirming a decision of the Assistant Collector of that District, dated the 22nd December 1869.

Shaikh Ahmed Hossein (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Bandee and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose for Respondents.

In a special appeal the general affirmation of a judgment can only refer to the points raised by the appellant, the rejection of the appeal not necessarily affirming the other findings of fact or law incidentally arrived at by the Lower Appellate Court.

In a suit for enhancement of rent on the ground that defendant holds land in excess of what he pays rents for, it is plaintiff's duty to show that the lands in question are all included within the tenure of the defendant, but that the latter has been paying rent for a quantity less than the area of those lands.

Bayley, J.—I AM of opinion that this special appeal must be dismissed, inasmuch as it is not shown that there is any error in law in the finding of the Lower Appellate Court that "the plaintiff has entirely failed "to show what specific lands are in excess "of the defendant's tenure, and what the "rates and quantity are of each kind."

It is admitted that the original tenure consisting of 23 beegahs and odd cottahs was a distinct tenure held at a fixed rent, as to which the plaintiff states he has no claim for enhancement; but the plaintiff asserts that there are 30 beegahs beyond those 23 beegahs held and occupied by the defendant, as to which he, plaintiff, is entitled to, and sues for, enhanced rent.

Now, until the actual fact of the 30 beegahs being in excess of the original tenure is proved by some specific evidence as to what and where they are, I think no such suit for enhancement as brought by the plaintiff in this case can lie.

The special appellant, however, relies on the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court on a former occasion having been generally affirmed on special appeal by this Court. I think that in a special appeal the general affirmation of a judgment below can only be on the points raised by the special appellant. By rejecting a special appeal, it does not follow that this Court necessarily affirms all the other findings of fact or of law the Lower Appellate Court may incid come to.

I would dismiss this special appe costs.

Mitter, J.—I am of the same opini

The argument based on the 3rd Cl Section 17, Act X. of 1859, has no tion to this case. If the so-called lands are included within the mok lease relied upon by the defendant, it clear that the plaintiff cannot enha rent payable by the defendant on the of those excess lands. If, on the other the said lands are not covered by th kurruree pottah, it is equally clear that is no relation of landlord and tenant be the plaintiff and the defendant in resp those lands. Clause 3, Section 17, of 1859, pre-supposes that the original itself is liable to enhancement. In this it is admitted that the defendant has tenure which is not liable to enhance and what the plaintiff is really seeking is to assess rent on lands for which has been hitherto paid to him, although ostensibly trying to treat this suit as for enhancement of rent.

It is said that this point has been determined by the decision of the passed on remand, as well as by the de of this Court passed on special appeal the Judge's order. So far as the J order of remand is concerned, I thi the observations of that officer relied by the special appellant were altogethe mature, and cannot, therefore, be bindi us now that we are called upon to pas judgment in the cause. Whether the *lands* were liable to enhancement or was a question on which no opinion co given before it was determined what excess lands were, and how, and under circumstances, they were taken possess by the defendant. The law applicab those lands could not be laid down wi the necessary facts being found; and I therefore, of opinion that the observatio question cannot be treated as conclusiv the particular point now under our co deration.

As to the decision passed by this C on special appeal, no judgment has b shown to us on the strength of which it be contended that the respondent is prec ed from contesting the plaintiff's claim

nced rent on the ground of *excess lands.* he plaintiff chose to come to Court on ground that the defendant held lands in ss of what he paid rents for, it was his to prove that assertion by showing the lands in question are all included n the tenure of the defendant, but that defendant has been paying rent for a ity less than the area of those lands. plaintiff has, in my opinion, entirely to prove this assertion, and I would, re, dismiss this special appeal with

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The 31st January 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Joint tenancy—Commensality.

Case No. 1690 of 1870.

al Appeal *from a decision passed by Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 28th ril 1870, affirming a decision of the nsiff of Dokrah, dated the 29th ember 1869.*

ee Monee Bibee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

dhub Singh and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Rash Beharee Ghose for Appellant.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Bose for Respondents.

e word "ijmalee" expresses joint tenancy even commensality is not implied.

lover, *J.*—The plaintiff in this case ed certain property by purchase from Tara Soonduree. She states that, after having purchased this property, she went to take possession, but was prevented by the defendants, and therefore was obliged to bring this suit.

The defence was that the property in dispute did not descend to Tara Soonduree as alleged by the plaintiff, but was the self-acquired property of one Narain Singh, a member of another branch of the family. The first Court found that the plaintiff's vendor had never been in possession of the property, that it was the self-acquired property of Narain Singh, and that Tara Soonduree had no right to sell it. In the second Court, the Judge refused to take into consideration the objection which had been raised before him that the family was a joint family, and that the property was joint-family property, and decided against the plaintiff on the ground that there was no documentary evidence in her favor, and that none of the six witnesses who had been examined on her behalf had deposed that the property was ever in the possession either of Tara Soonduree or of her husband Mutty Singh.

It appears to us that this decision of the Judge by no means touches the question at issue between the parties. The allegation in the plaint undoubtedly was that the family was a joint family, the word used being "ijmalee." The Judge seems to have taken the want of any allegation as to commensality as want of allegation of joint tenancy, overlooking, apparently, the fact that a Hindoo family may very well be joint in property, though not joint in mess. The points to be decided in this case, therefore, were—1st, whether this property which Tara Soonduree sold to the plaintiff was part of the ancestral joint-family property coming as such to her husband Mutty Singh, and on his decease devolving on his widow Tara Soonduree, or was it, as alleged by the defendant, the separate self-acquired property of Narain Singh, a member of another branch of the family. The first Court decided this point adversely to the plaintiff, and, no doubt, it was the duty of the Judge to decide that point also. There was no question of limitation involved in this suit, and therefore whether Mutty Singh or Tara Soonduree was or was not in possession of this property at the time of the sale had really nothing to do with the matter.

We observe, moreover, that the Judge is not quite correct when he states that

none of the witnesses depose to the fact of Mutty Singh's or his wife's possession, for some of the witnesses at least depose that they were in possession. The case must, therefore, be remanded to decide whether or not Tara Soonduree had the rights of a sharer in the joint ancestral property, and, as such, power to dispose of these lands to the plaintiff.

Costs to follow the result.

The 1st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Butwarra—Reserved rights.

Case No. 1463 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated the 18th April 1870, affirming a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 1st July 1869.

Gour Sahoy Singh and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Sheo Sahoy Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. Mun-Mohun Ghose for Appellants.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

Where parties, by agreement in a butwarra, restricted their rights by the condition that one of their number was to have full use of the water in a reservoir, the others were held not to be at liberty to set up, even on their own lands, an embankment round the reservoir so as to diminish materially the flow of water into it.

Jackson, J.—It appears to me that the special appeal in this case cannot be sustained. The learned Counsel who has argued it before us has evidently felt the great difficulty of bringing the case within limits of special appeals at all; and reality, the tendency of the argument been to show, either that the plaintiff get something which he was not entitle by the terms of the butwarra, or tha obtained more than he asked for in plaint.

But it appears to me not to be so. plaintiff seems merely to desire to ge full advantage which was reserved to in the butwarra or partition between parties. The words of the butwarra that the water of the Puchyaree Ahur, w is one of the three great reservoirs w were included in the subject of parti shall find its way to the land of the pla through the aperture or *kurbee*, as called, of another apparently similar r voir which is the exclusive property o defendant. I can attach no other mea to this stipulation than that the wate the larger reservoir should pass through smaller on its way to the plaintiff's la Consequently, the decree made by the ordinate Judge is in accordance with reasonable interpretation of the butwarra.

Then there is another question which lates to the right of the defendant to se on his own land an embankment run round one or more sides of the res *ahur* or reservoir. It is contended by special appellant that he is entitled to this on his own land, and we are refe to a case in 13 Weekly Reporter, page where in a case supposed to be similar learned Chief Justice held that the pla there could not be restrained from doing

That case, so far as I can judge from report, is an entirely different case from present. There the plaintiff held the l without any reservation; but in this the parties have by agreement in the warra restricted their rights by the co tion that the plaintiff was to have full us the water in the reservoir. Now, if the pa who obtained the lands lying on diffe sides of that reservoir were to be at lib to put up an embankment round it, and diminish very materially the flow of w into it, the rights reserved to the o co-sharers would become nearly or q nugatory. Under these circumstances, appears to me that the injunction agai erecting this embankment was prope issued, and that this appeal must be d missed with costs.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

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The 1st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Case No. 428 of 1870.

Judgment-debtor.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Gya, dated the 13th September 1870.

Syud Nujmooddeen Ahmed (Objector), *Appellant,*

versus

Abdool Azeez (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Mr. C. Gregory for Appellant.

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Respondent.

The silence of a judgment-debtor on a previous occasion is no bar to his being heard when he objects alleging material irregularity, provided his allegation is made within the 30 days allowed by law.

Jackson, J.—It appears to us that the Judge was bound in this case to hear the evidence tendered by the judgment-debtor in support of his objection. The circumstances referred to by the Judge may be material as affecting the credit which ought to be given to the evidence when received, but it is a mistake to suppose that the fact of the silence of the petitioner on the previous occasion is a bar to his being heard when he alleges material irregularity within the 30 days allowed by law for that purpose.

The order of the Judge must be set aside. We will enquire into the facts alleged by the petitioner, and decide whether the objection is made out, and, if so, whether there has been any material irregularity, and whether any injury has been sustained in consequence of the irregularity complained of.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 1st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Purchase from judgment-debtor—Title—Right of suit.

Case No. 1397 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 25th March 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Tajpore, dated the 30th July 1869.

Goburdhun Doss and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Munnoo Lall (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Appellants.

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Respondent.

The purchaser of property from a judgment-debtor, whose right, title, and interest have been subsequently sold to another party who desires to take possession, has a right to sue for a declaration of title and confirmation of possession for the purpose of clearing his title from the suspicion of its being founded on a collusive sale.

Jackson, J.—It appears to me that we cannot in special appeal disturb the finding of fact come to by the Lower Appellate Court. I cannot see any ground for supposing that the Additional Judge who heard this appeal did not understand what the true issue between the parties was. Whether he has expressed himself in the decision of that issue with force and accuracy is another question, but it is clear from the whole of his decision that the issue which he was trying was whether there had been a *bonâ-fide* sale of this property on the

part of the judgment-debtor to the brother-in-law, and he finds, as a fact, upon the evidence that there had been such sale.

That being so, I think that the plaintiff was, as a matter of law, entitled to a decree. He alleges that the right, title, and interest of his vendor had been put up for sale, and sold to another person, and that other person desires to take possession. We cannot say that he is not competent to bring a suit in Court to have his title cleared, and to ask for what he calls a declaration of right and confirmation of possession. That which he must have mainly desired to obtain in this case was a declaration of right free from the suspicion cast upon it of its being a collusive sale, and of there being nothing left in the judgment-debtor to sell afterwards. He has established this fact to the satisfaction of the Lower Appellate Court, and whether or not we should come to the same conclusion upon the evidence, I do not think we are entitled in special appeal to interfere with it. The special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 1st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Reversioners—Declaratory decree—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1717 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 7th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 2nd February 1870.

Bykunt Nath Roy and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Grish Chunder Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. Mendes and *Baboos Nil Madhub Bose* and *Jadub Chunder Seal* for Appellants.

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Respondent.

In a suit for a declaration of plaintiff's reversionary title as heir to his late uncle's property, and for reversal of a deed of sale from that uncle set up by the defendant, the widow not having been made a party to the suit, and her consent to, or dissent from, the alleged conveyance not having been ascertained, the issue tried was whether the deed was genuine, and whether defendant has possession under it.

HELD that the onus was rightly placed on the defendant.

HELD that there was nothing to prevent plaintiff from suing, during the lifetime of the widow, for a declaratory decree to the effect that the alienation would not bind him in the event of his surviving the widow.

Kemp, J.—THE defendants are the special appellants.

The plaintiff sued to have his reversionary title to one-third of the disputed property declared, as heir of his uncle Parbuttee, and for reversal of a deed of sale from Parbuttee set up by the defendant—the sale deed being dated the 22nd Bysack 12[illegible]. It is admitted that the widow of Parbuttee is alive, and that she has not been made a party to the suit. Her consent to, or dissent from, the alleged deed by her husband, Parbuttee, to the defendants has not been ascertained. The defendants relied solely upon the deed of conveyance by Parbuttee as extinguishing the plaintiff's reversionary rights.

The issue tried was whether the deed of Parbuttee to the defendants was genuine or not, and whether the defendants had been in possession under it.

The first Court was of opinion that, as the deed was *primâ facie* without suspicion, as it had not been recently written, and further as it has been attested by one of the subscribing witnesses to it, *viz.*, Ram Gopal Hazara, it was a genuine instrument.

On the question of possession, the first Court found that the defendants were in possession under the deed.

The Subordinate Judge in appeal tried the same issue. He observes that the deed is not of a very old date, that the witnesses are low people, and that Ram Gopal has given evidence ten times. He also points out discrepancies in the evidence of the defendant's witnesses.

On the question of possession, he finds that the widow of Parbuttee, the vendor of the defendants, is still in possession of the disputed property. He, therefore, reverses the decision of the first Court, and gave the plaintiff a decree.

In special appeal, it is urged :—

1st.—That the onus has been wrongly ced on the defendants, it being for the intiff to prove that the deed is not nuine.

2nd.—That the Subordinate Judge has t distinctly found who is in possession the disputed property.

3rd.—That the reasons of the Subordi- Judge for holding that the deed is not nuine are not sufficient.

4th.—That the plaintiff's suit is barred.

The fourth plea was not raised in the dings or taken in the Lower Courts.

The onus has not been misplaced. The le evidence appears to have been weigh- and considered by the Subordinate Judge. Subordinate Judge distinctly finds that widow of Parbuttee is in possession. reasons given by the Subordinate Judge discrediting the deed appear to us to be cient, and there are no grounds for a cial appeal.

An additional ground was raised for the time in this Court that the plaintiff d not sue during the lifetime of the ow for a declaration of his reversionary ht.

We think that there is no force in this tional ground. The object of the plaint- suit is to have it declared that the ed sale to the defendants by Parbuttee not be binding upon him when the cession opens out to him, *i. e.*, on the th of the widow. It may be that he not survive the widow whose life-in- st is admitted, and who has been found be in possession. But there is nothing revent plaintiff from suing in the life- of the widow for a declaratory decree, the alleged alienation by Parbuttee to defendants will not bind the plaintiff if urvive the widow.

In this view of the case, we confirm decision of the Subordinate Judge in far as it declares that the deed set up the defendants will not bind the plaintiff en his succession to the estate of his le Parbuttee opens out to him.

The special appeal is dismissed with ts.

The 1st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Third parties—Section 73, Act VIII. of 1859—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1724 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of West Burdwan, dated the 21st June 1870, modifying a decision of the Officiating Moonsiff of Radhanuggur, dated the 18th April 1870.

Ram Taruck Ghossal and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Radha Bullab Sircar and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry and *Gopal Lall Mitter* for Appellants.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Romesh Chunder Bose* for Respondents.

In a suit for establishment of title to a portion of land with which defendants repudiated all connection, alleging the land to be in the possession of third parties, who were in consequence made defendants by an order of the Court under Section 73, Civil Procedure Code:

HELD that these parties were rightly made defendants as having been interested both in the subject-matter and in the result of the suit; and even if they had been wrongly made defendants, the onus would, under the circumstances, remain on the plaintiffs.

Glover, J.—THE points taken in this special appeal are—(1) that the Lower Court

was not justified in making Man Koomaree and others defendants under Section 73 of the Civil Procedure Code, there being no privity between them and the original parties to the suit; and (2) that, if they were rightly made parties, the *onus probandi* was on them, and not on the plaintiffs.

The dispute is with reference to 4 beegahs of land said to be situate within plot No. 2 claimed by the plaintiffs. The original defendants were Gopeenath and others; and as regards this particular 4 beegahs, they denied their liability, alleging the land to be in the possession of Man Koomaree and others. These persons were one after the other made defendants by the Court under Section 73, Civil Procedure Code, and were held by the Moonsiff to have proved their claim.

We have been referred to the case of Jugadanund Misser *versus* Hamed Russool, 10 Weekly Reporter 52, in support of the special appellant's contention that Man Koomaree and the others ought not to have been made parties to the suit, but that, being so made, the onus was on them. We have also been referred to the case of Joy Gobind Doss *versus* Gooroo Pershad Shaha, 7 Weekly Reporter, 201, to show that the Moonsiff was wrong in allowing Man Koomaree and her fellows to interfere between the plaintiff and the original defendants.

As Man Koomaree and the others were made defendants under Section 73 by the direct order of the Court, an order which we may observe was never objected to by the plaintiffs at any stage of the proceedings in the Courts below, we do not see how we can now displace them from that position; having been admitted as defendants, they must remain there; nor do we think that their admission as parties to the suit was improper. The general rule of equity, as quoted by the learned Chief Justice in the case of Joy Gobind Doss quoted above, is that "all "persons are to be made parties who are "either legally or equitably interested in the "subject-matter and result of the suit."

Now, as to the "subject-matter," there can be no doubt, plaintiffs and defendants both claiming title in the same land. Then as to the "result," a decree in favor of the plaintiffs against Gopeenath would not, of course, have bound Man Koomaree, but the result of such a decree would have been most disastrous to her. The plaintiff sued to recover possession of certain land lyi within certain defined boundaries; and if th had got a decree, they would, in executio have taken possession of that land, althou a portion of it never was, and never had bee in the possession or ownership of the de fendants sued, and regarding which the defendants, from the first, repudiated all co nection. Man Koomaree and her fello could, no doubt, have, on being turned out their lands, applied to the Court under Se tion 230 of the Procedure Code; but th position would have been very much wor than it would have been had they bee allowed to appear as defendants instead being forced into Court as plaintiffs. Und the circumstances of the present case, appears impossible to say that Man Koomar and the others were not distinctly interest both in the subject-matter and in the re of the suit brought by the plaintiffs agai Gopeenath.

Then as to the onus, the case report in the 10th Volume of the Weekly Repor is one where the defendant, under Section thrust himself into the litigation—and t under very suspicious circumstances, and that case the burthen of proof was held be upon her. Here, however, the matter very different. Man Koomaree was brou into the suit by the direct order of the Co and we do not see why her position shou be made worse than that of any other defen ant; or that, because the Moonsiff chose make her a party, the plaintiffs should esca the necessity imposed on all plaintiffs of pro ing their own case. It is not, moreover, as those defendants had made no attempt to pro their right. On the contrary, they produce evidence which the Moonsiff, who held local investigation and tried the case, declar in his judgment to be most respectable an satisfactory.

The Subordinate Judge, placing the onu on the plaintiffs, has found that they hav had no possession of the disputed land with in 12 years, and that their claim is barred.

On the whole, therefore, we think that the Moonsiff was not wrong in making Man Koomaree and the others parties under Section 73; and that, even if he was wrong, the onus would not, under the circumstances of this case, be shifted, but would remain on the plaintiffs; and that, therefore, the Subordinate Judge was right also.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

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The 1st February 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Legal possession—Section 224, Act VIII. of 1859.

he Court of Wards and others, *Petitioners,*

versus

Burra Lall Oopendronath Deo, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for Petitioners.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Opposite Party.

order to a legal possession being given under ion 224, Act VIII. of 1859, it is essential that all the irements of that Section be carried out.

Kemp, J.—It appears that in this case an eal is now pending before this Court in ch the question whether Burra Lall pendronath Deo, the nephew of the late harajah of Chota Nagpore, or the sons of late Rajah, are entitled to his estate, has be decided.

Burra Lall Oopendronath Deo has obtain- a decree in the first Court, and an appeal s been preferred by the Court of Wards, o now represent the minors, the alleged s of the late Rajah.

It is said on behalf of the decree-holder t he had substantially obtained possession this estate before the order passed by this ourt on the 24th of November last. The dicial Commissioner has found that pos- sion was given to the decree-holder, Burra all, before the order of this Court; and erefore he reversed the order of the Assist- t Commissioner directing the ryots to pay eat as hitherto to the Court of Wards.

The question we have to decide is, whether ossession had been legally given to the ecree-holder before the order of this Court ssed on the 24th of November. The ookoomnamah directing the Nazir to give ossession to Burra Lall is dated the 27th of October. It appears that, on the 20th November, the Nazir went to Ranchee, the principal village of the Raj and the place of residence of the Ranees. On the 20th or 21st he did not proclaim the order, but, on the 22nd of November, he proclaimed the order of the Court in the villages of Rantoo and Ranchee. Peadahs were then deputed to proclaim the same order in other villages of the Raj. It is, however, stated by the Nazir in his examination, when cross-examined, that no copy of the warrant was fixed in any conspicuous place on the land or other immoveable property.

Now, we are of opinion that, under Section 224 of Act VIII. of 1859, it is essential that all the requirements of that Section should be carried out; and as in this case it is clear that no copy of the hookoomnamah was fixed on any place on the land in dispute, we think that the possession, which it was alleged had been given to the decree-holder, is not a possession which we can call a legal possession under Section 224. We, therefore, make this rule absolute, reverse the order of the Judicial Commissioner; and direct that the estate remain in the custody of the Court of Wards. No costs.

The 1st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Rent-suit—Registered tenants — Execution — Notice—Sale under Act VIII. (B. C.), 1865.

Case No. 1633 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Jessore, dated the 25th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Magoorah, dated the 26th January 1870.

Sadhun Chunder Bose (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Gooroo Churn Bose and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Bungshee Dhur Sein* for Appellant.

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Respondents.

By law, a zemindar is not bound to recognize as his tenant one whose name has not been registered in his books; and, when his rent becomes due and is not paid, it is sufficient for him to bring his suit against

the parties from whom he has hitherto received rent.

When a sale takes place under the provisions of Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865, the whole tenure is sold, the purchaser acquiring it free of all incumbrances created by any holder.

Loch, J.—We think that the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court must be set aside. That judgment is mainly based on the ground that, in obtaining a decree under Act X. of 1859, there was collusion between the putneedar and the plaintiff and others; and having laid that down as the foundation of the judgment, the Subordinate Judge goes on to declare that the sale also is collusion, and he reverses the judgment of the first Court.

It appears that the tenure in question was originally held by one Onoop Sircar, and his name was recorded in the zemindar's books. After his death, his widow, Porosh Monee, continued to pay the rents; but one Neemanund claimed a share in the estate, as being the grandson of Ram Chunder, the cousin of the said Onoop Sircar. He brought a suit against Porosh Monee, which was compromised, Porosh Monee taking 9 annas and Neemanund 7 annas; and after his his death, his mother Bhyrobee succeeded as his heir.

Onoop Sircar left, besides his widow Porosh Monee, two sons, Benee Madhub and Prosunno Coomar. Prosunno Coomar died without leaving any children, and was succeeded by his mother Porosh Monee; and when Benee Madhub came of age, he brought a suit to set aside the arrangement between Porosh Monee and Neemanund; but he failed, and his suit was dismissed in 1863.

Subsequently, in 1867, the putneedar brought a suit for arrears of rent of the tenure against Benee Madhub and Porosh Monee, and obtained a decree on the 18th of January 1867. He subsequently, as is stated to us, gave a dur-putnee of this tenure to one Ram Gopal, and made over the unexecuted decrees which he held against tenants to the said Ram Gopal to enable him to recover the arrears of rent. It is said on the other side that he did not make over but sold that decree to Ram Gopal. But this is of very little consequence on the present question. Ram Gopal executed the decree, brought the tenure to sale, purchased it himself, and then sold it to the plaintiff, who, in attempting to get possession, was ousted by the defendant Gooroo Churn, who held a pottah under said Bhyrobee.

The Subordinate Judge considers the lusion of the putneedar with other ties proved by the fact that, in the brought by Benee Madhub in 1863 to aside the *ruffanamah* entered into by mother with Neemanund, the putne was made a *pro-formâ* defendant; and concludes that he must, therefore, have aware that Bhyrobee was admitted the owner of 7 annas of the tenure; knowing this, he was bound to make party in the suit for arrears of rent he brought against Benee Madhub and Po Monee.

Even admitting that he was aware of existence of the decree passed in that it does not appear that Bhyrobee ever rents to him. It is not attempted to be s that she ever sought to have her name tered; and therefore, when his rent be due, it was sufficient for him to bring suit against the parties from whom he hitherto received the rents, and who faile pay them when they became due.

We cannot see, therefore, that there is proof that the putneedar colluded with parties.

But it is said by the respondent, if putneedar did not collude, Benee Ma and Ram Gopal and the present plaintiff all colluded together; they are intim connected, and, knowing that Bhyrobee a share, should have given her an op tunity of paying up; and therefore there a collusion which vitiates the sale.

But all that Ram Gopal did was execute the decree which had been tran red to him by Savi. It is not shown that did not pursue the course appointed by There is nothing but a general allegation fraud against the sale-proceedings—th have not been in any way challenged sp fically; and we do not see that, when decree-holder has got a decree, he is bo to give notice to any party who, he know, has an interest in the property lia to be sold. All that is necessary is to p ceed according to law, and Ram Gopal, this case, did proceed according to la therefore the plea of collusion utterly fails.

But it is said in support of the judgme of the Lower Appellate Court that, even collusion is not proved, the plaintiff can g no more than the share of the judgment

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ctors against whom the decree was made, eir rights and interests alone being sold.

But it appears to us that, if this sale took ce under the provisions of Act VIII. of 65, B. C.—and it appears that it was held der that law—the whole tenure was sold; d under the provisions of Section 16, e purchaser of an under-tenure sold under his Act shall acquire it free of all incumrances which may have accrued thereon by y act of any holder of the said underenure."

Lastly, it is urged in support of the judgnt of the Lower Appellate Court that robee, and on her part Gooroo Churn. forth that the land in dispute formed no t of the tenure sold, and we find that the Court raised the following issue on this t:—

"Do the disputed lands pertain to the leged jumma for Rupees 9-2, or whether e lands covered by Dags No. 1 and 2 are e mohutran tenure of Bhyrobee Dossee?"

he first Court decided this issue against defendant Bhyrobee, but the Subordie Judge, after noticing the claim, has most lessly put this issue aside, making a rek or two on it: whereas he should have ded it distinctly, it being the most mal issue in the case. Had he decided it, ibly this present appeal might have been vented. It is a point which he must de; it was put before him, and he ought ave decided it.

e reverse the decision of the Subordie Judge, and remand the case to him the trial of the following issue, namely: hether the lands in dispute in this suit longed to the tenure sold as appertaining the jumma of Rupees 9 and 2 annas; whether, as alleged by her, Bhyrobee, gs 1 and 2 are her mohutran lands; d whether the remaining lands belong other jummas."

The appellant will have his costs of this eal.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur in decreeing this eal. It is admitted before us that there o proof of fraud or collusion on the part the putneedar Savi, who obtained the cree for rent. It is merely said that he ght to have known that Bhyrobee was a areholder, and therefore ought to have ed her for rent, though she was not a reorded tenant, and had taken no measures to effect a registry of her name in the serishta of Mr. Savi, simply because Savi was a *pro-formâ* defendant in a certain suit brought by one Ram Chunder, the son of Onoop, against Bhyrobee to set aside a compromise entered into between the mother of Ram Chunder and Bhyrobee. Savi did not enter appearance in that suit, as it was one in which he had no sort of interest whatever. It is contended that, Savi not having made Bhyrobee a party to the rent-suit, the Court was bound to presume fraud and collusion on his part. I do not agree in this proposition. By law, the zemindar was not bound to recognize Bhyrobee as his tenant, unless she had caused a registry of her name in his books. Savi, therefore, cannot be said to have acted fraudulently. There may be very good ground to presume that Ram Chunder would have been glad to see this jote sold, but it is not shown that, in omitting to sue Bhyrobee, Savi was acting in concert or collusion with Ram Chunder.

It is next said that the arrear for which the tenure was brought to sale, and the rent-suit was brought, was a very trifling sum; but it appears that the annual rent of this jote is also a very small amount, and that the arrears were above the rent due for an entire year.

In order to get rid of a decree passed by a Collector under the provisions of Act X. of 1859, and to set aside a sale held in execution thereof on the ground of fraud, the plaintiff was bound to prove fraud on the part of the putneedar who obtained the decree, and that fraud was committed in the conduct of the sale or in the publication of the necessary processes required by law to be duly published previous to the sale. What the purchaser from Savi did was merely to give effect to the decree which had been transferred to him by putting it into execution. No such fraud as would vitiate the decree or the purchase of the defendant is made out in this case, even according to the plaintiff's statement or according to the finding of the Subordinate Judge. Under the whole of the circumstances of this case which was gone through at considerable length before us, we do not find that any fraud is proved either on the part of the decree-holder or the purchaser.

The other points urged by the appellant's vakeel have been fully disposed of in the judgment of my learned colleague, and I agree generally with him in the rea-

sons given for their disposal. I would also remand the case for a decision of the issue pointed out by Mr. Justice Loch. I think the Subordinate Judge was bound to decide this issue before he entered on the trial of the other issues. That issue, if found in favor of the plaintiff, would have disposed of the whole case, and consequently the other issues would not, perhaps, have been required to be decided. If the lands sued for in this suit were outside the jote purchased by the defendant, there is an end of all questions of fraud in the matter of the sale.

The 1st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Case No. 1038 of 1870.

Limitation—Family-property—Evidence.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, dated the 4th March 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazareebaugh, dated the 26th August 1868.

The Court of Wards on behalf of Tekait Ram Chunder Singh, minor (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Bunwaree Lall Thakoor (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Prosunno Dutt and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Respondent.

The Political Department in Chota Nagpore, as judgment-creditors, took out attachment against a family-estate in which the rule of primogeniture prevailed to meet ancestral debts, and appropriated the pro in satisfaction. Objection was made by a memb the family claiming ten of the villages as held by and his ancestors under a mokurruree grant for a tenance. An answer was put in and litigation foll resulting in a final decision by the Civil Authoriti the Zillah, that the claimant was not entitled to fou of ten villages claimed, and the proceeds were div to the payment of debts which were not his. He sued for a declaration of his right and title to the villages.

HELD that the possession of the Political Depart had not been adverse to the plaintiff, and his cau action did not arise till his title was denied, and proceeds diverted from his use.

The copy of a copy of a document may be adm as evidence when it comes from a public office, and original is shown to have been lost, but not other

Kemp, J.—THIS suit was remanded on 6th of September 1869 by Justices Ma and Hobhouse. It appears that, in the instance, the Lower Courts had app Clause 5 and Clause 16, Section 1, Act X of 1859, to the case, and held that the of the plaintiff was barred. In special peal, the learned Judges remanding the observed that, as the suit was one to rec possession of immoveable property, it specially provided for by Clause 12, Sec 1 of the aforesaid Act; and that it was reference to that Clause that the question limitation must be tried. The case therefore, remanded for that purpose, and Judges, in remanding it, thought it desir that, in whatever way the question of lim tion be determined, all the other questi which had arisen or might arise in it sho be disposed of also.

The case is briefly this: The plaint who is the special respondent before us, s for declaration of his right and title to fo mouzahs, as comprised within the sunn granted to his ancestor in lieu of maintenan by a former Tekait. It appears that in th family the rule of primogeniture preva and that the younger branch of the fam receive as maintenance a certain number mouzahs in the shape of Babooanah. It alleged by the plaintiff that his ancestor ob tained from the ancestor of the defendants mokurruree sunnud for six mouzahs, that th sunnud was granted in the year 1232, an that in the sunnud there is mention of th fact that the sunnud was granted for the six mouzahs as per huddoodbundee. Th sunnud was registered in April 1826 before the Judge of the Zillah. The huddood-

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mdee referred to in the original grant has t been filed in original, but a copy of a py of that deed said to have been obtained m the Cazee's office has been put in. It alleged that the original huddoodbundee s registered, not before the Judge, nor at e same time as the sunnud, which, under dinary circumstances, it ought to have been, th being of the same date, but that it was gistered more than a year afterwards by the zee. The defendants admit that the plaint- is entitled under the sunnud to six mouzahs which he is in possession, but with re- ence to the four disputed mouzahs they y that they are comprised within the nud put in by the plaintiff, and allege that huddoodbundee is spurious.

The first Court, after disposing of the e in bar, observes that there can be no stion that, at the time the sunnud was n, a huddoodbundee was also written, but the huddoodbundee contained is not tioned in the sunnud. The plaintiff, the Court observes, filed a copy of a copy the huddoodbundee registered by the ee, but the Court had the gravest doubts rding that document. The Deputy missioner observes that, although that doodbundee purported to have been exe- d on the same day as the sunnud, and al- gh the sunnud was then registered before Judge, the huddoodbundee registered ore the Cazee was not registered until a r and upwards after the sunnud; and her that in 1830, when the plaintiff lied for registration of his name in re- ct of the six mouzahs under the sunnud, did not produce the huddoodbundee, nor he say anything with reference to the r additional mouzahs now claimed. The Court, therefore, held that the plaintiff dispossessed in 1852 by the attachment de by the Political Department; that he been out of possession ever since; that d not been proved that the huddood- dee produced by him is the huddood- dee referred to in the sunnud, or that huddoodbundee copy of a copy of which now produced was granted by the Tekaet Bijoy Singh, or executed by him; that is not proved that the four villages in pute are covered by the sunnud, which y covered six villages, and that these six ages are in the plaintiff's possession. first Court, therefore, dismissed the ntiff's suit with costs.

In appeal after the remand by this Court, Judicial Commissioner, after reciting the plaint briefly and the reasons of the first Court for dismissing the suit, observes on the question of limitation that he was of opinion that the suit was not barred by the Law of Limitation, as it was clear from the pleadings and documents filed that the four mouzahs claimed by the plaintiff were not attached in 1852, and that this is allowed by the Lower Court; and that further it appeared to him that up to the 31st August 1859 the date of the former Commissioner's order, the plaintiff was in possession of these four mouzahs, although "irregularly so; "and that it was in that year that the rent "due on them was recovered from the plaint- "iff, and he called upon to take a settlement "on them in the usual terms, it was then "that he was dispossessed of them as "portion of his mokurruree grant; and as "this occurred in 1859, and the suit was "brought in 1867, or eight years after dis- "possession, the suit is not barred by Act "XIV. of 1859."

On the merits, he observes that the validity of the sunnud could not be doubted; that in this sunnud the names of the six mouzahs released to the plaintiff in 1859 are mentioned, and that a separate huddood- bundee list had then been given, according to which boundaries the plaintiff was to receive possession. With reference to the huddoodbundee filed by the plaintiff, the Judicial Commissioner observes that, as this document was said to have been registered by the Cazee, the Cazee's register was sent for, but that it was not forthcoming; that the document filed purports to be a copy of a copy taken from the Cazee's office, the original having been burnt with other papers belonging to the plaintiff about 20 or 22 years ago. The Judicial Commissioner proceeds to observe that, if such a document really was in existence, it is clearly proved by the evidence of the witnesses that it has been destroyed, and a copy would, therefore, be admissible. Again, he observes there is no doubt that such a document, namely, a huddoodbundee, was given to the plaintiff at the time the sunnud was granted; and in order to satisfy himself that the contents of the document given to the plaintiff were to the nature stated by him, he called for the list of villages in the estate, that is to say, in the whole Guddee, filed by Tekaet Girdharee Singh, the grandfather of the minor defendant in 1843. In this list, the Judicial Commissioner says that it appears that three out of the four villages in dispute were inserted in that list as belonging to the plaint-

iff's father Kunhya Singh; and further, that a 4th village, not one of the villages now claimed, was mentioned in that list; but, says the Judicial Commissioner, as three villages whose names correspond with those claimed by the plaintiff are to be found in this list, it may be inferred that the 4th village, although not mentioned, must be inferred to be comprised within the boundaries given in that huddoodbundee. Therefore, it appearing to the Judicial Commissioner that the suit was not barred by the Law of Limitation, and that the four mouzahs claimed by the plaintiff were part of his mokurruree grant, he decreed the appeal and the plaintiff's suit, reversing the decision of the Lower Court.

The case has now come up in special appeal before us. The points taken are—*1st.*—That the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in holding that the plaintiff's suit is not barred by the Law of Limitation, as the plaintiff, on his own showing, was dispossessed in 1852, and more than 12 years have elapsed before the institution of the present suit. There can be no doubt in this case that, if we take the attachment of 1852 as the starting point, and if the plaintiff's cause of action arose in that year, that his suit is barred. Clause 12, Section 1 of Act XIV. of 1859, lays down that suits for the recovery of immoveable property, or of any interest in immoveale property to which no other provisions of the Act apply, must be brought within 12 years from the time the cause of action arose. The learned Judges who remanded the case directed the Lower Court to try it under this Clause; and therefore, if the cause of action accrued to the plaintiff in 1852, the present suit brought in 1867 is barred; but it is contended on the other side that the attachment in 1852 was not made by either of the parties to this suit, but that it was an attachment made at the instance of judgment-creditors. It appears, and is not disputed, that the family of the Tekaets were indebted. It is said by the defendants that the attachment was made as against the judgment-debtor, Tekaet Girdharee Singh alone. On the other hand, the plaintiff says that the attachment was made to satisfy the ancestral debts of the family for which they were both liable; but it is clear that the judgment-creditors of the plaintiff did also take out attachment of the six villages covered by the sunnud, as well as the other four villages now in suit, and that the judgment-creditors of the plaintiff did draw out and appropriate in satisfaction of their debt the proceeds of those six villages. We think it is clear that this attachm made by the Political Department (and an attachment peculiar to this district, in other districts the judgment-credi would have proceeded against the prope and sold it) was made for the purpose satisfying the ancestral debts of this fa On the attachment being made, the pla in this suit objected that 10 of his villages by him and his ancestors under this mo ruree grant for their maintenance had attached. This claim was made immedi after the attachment, and it was not three years after the claim was made any answer to that objection was put i the other side. After considerable litiga and on an appeal to the higher author of the zillah, it was finally decided in that the plaintiff was entitled only to mouzahs for his maintenance under sunnud, and that these six mouzahs mu released to him; and with reference to remaining four mouzahs, it was held that were not covered by the sunnud, that had been improperly in the possessio the plaintiff for a long time, and that would be allowed to hold them on pay of a proper rent, and making the u bundobust or settlement. The plaintiff fused to take a bundobust, and the proce of these four villages, instead of being ap priated to the payment of the plaint debts, were appropriated to the satisfact of the debts of the judgment-creditors of defendants. It is, therefore, in 1860 the plaintiff's cause of action arose. Th was nothing in the attachment, and there nothing in the possession of the Polit Department adverse to the plaintiff, or wh in any way invaded his right and title u 1860, when it was declared that he had title to the four villages, subject of this s and the proceeds of those four villages w diverted from the payment of his debts. a applied to the liquidation of defendant debts. We, therefore, think that this s is not barred by the Law of Limitation, b on the merits we cannot concur with th decision of the Judicial Commissioner.

We think that the grounds taken in sp cial appeal, namely, that the evidence as the loss of the original huddoodbundee not legally sufficient to allow a copy of copy (even supposing it to be admissible evidence) to be used against the special ap pellant; further, that the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in law in using as evidence against the defendants an old list of villages alleged to have been filed in the Commission-

's Court in 1843 by the grandfather of e minor defendant, without taking evidence to its having been actually filed by him; d also that the Judicial Commissioner has o erred in giving the plaintiff a decree for ssession as regards the villages Mohooa gha, &c., although these villages are not uded in the list of villages above referred -are good grounds of appeal.

With reference to the first objection, we fully sensible of the wisdom of the arks made in the decision of the Privy ncil, dated February 1868,* quoted by the cial respondent, that with regard to the ssibility of evidence in the native Courts dia, no such strict rules can be applied hose which are generally acknowledged carried out in the Courts of England; we also think that we ought not to apany such strict rule to the admission ocumentary evidence, where it can be n that the copy of a copy of a docut comes from a public office, and that ient evidence has been given of the loss e original. Now, in this case, all the ence that has been given is that the e of the plaintiff was burnt 20 or 25 s ago, and there is no evidence whatever e loss by fire of this original document; further we find that the register called rom the Cazee's office is not forthcoming. copy which is filed purporting to be n by the Cazee does not bear the signae of that officer; the original was not istered, as it ought to have been, at the e time and in the same office as the arruree sunnud; and therefore we think the first Court that this document is of ghly suspicious nature, and that, in the nce of all evidence of a satisfactory racter as to the loss of the original docut, the Deputy Commissioner was right in ting this document as inadmissible.

With reference to the list which the Judi- Commissioner has admitted as evidence st the special appellant, we think that as wrong in law in making use of that as evidence as against the special appel-. The list purports to be a list of the ges of the whole guddee or parent estate. that list mention is made of three vil- es as being in the possession of Kunhya gh, but there is nothing to identify these e villages with the mokurruree sunnud ted to the ancestor of the plaintiff, nor here anything in that list to show that e villages mentioned therein as in the occupation of Kunhya Singh, the father of the plaintiff, were held by him for his maintenance under the sunnud or grant.

Again, the Judicial Commissioner is clearly wrong in decreeing to the plaintiff a village which is not even to be found in the list itself.

We have a few more remarks to make on the merits of this case independent of the grounds taken in special appeal. We are of opinion that the huddoodbundee is clearly spurious for these reasons, that in the mokurruree grant six villages are distinctly mentioned by name, the aggregate jumma of Rupees 10 and some annas is also recorded, and the jumma of each village is separately specified: it then goes on to say, "I give you "these six villages as per huddoodbundee." Of course, that means that the huddoodbundee contains a description of the boundaries of the six mouzahs granted, because the six mouzahs are clearly identified, and the jumma are separately specified. Now, the huddoodbundee put in by the plaintiff not only gives boundaries extending far beyond the limits of six villages originally granted, but it also includes villages not granted at all—and this alone throws the greatest suspicion upon its genuineness; and when to this circumstance we add the fact that the mokurruree sunnud which is not disputed is registered before the Judge, and that this deed which is now filed and purports to be a copy of a copy of the huddoodbundee alleged to have been executed at the same time as the sunnud was not registered until more than a year after, and that before a Cazee, we can have no hesitation in coming to the same conclusion at which the first Court has arrived that this is a spurious document. Again, the Judicial Commissioner takes no notice whatever of a very important point in the case noticed by the first Court, namely, that in 1830, when the plaintiff applied for registration of his name as mokurrureedar with reference to the six villages covered by the sunnud, he did not file this huddoodbundee; and further that he omitted to make any mention of the fact that he was in possession of the four villages now in dispute, or to ask that his name should be recorded with reference to these four villages as malik.

For these reasons, we reverse the decision of the Judicial Commissioner, restore the decree of the first Court, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit with costs of both Courts, including the costs of this appeal.

* 4 W. R., P. C., p. 121.

The 2nd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Butwarra—Right of suit.

Case No. 1527 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 25th April 1870, reversing a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 12th August 1869.

Bhekdharee Singh and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Kishen Pershad Singh and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry for Appellants.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Respondents.

A suit to set aside a mokurruree lease granted by a co-sharer was held to be premature as having been brought before completion of a butwarra which was in course of being effected, the plaintiff having no *locus standi* to bring a suit in respect of a mokurruree by which he might never be injuriously affected.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff in this case, who is the 6-annas co-sharer in an estate which was under partition, sued the defendant to get rid of an alleged mokurruree lease granted by a co-sharer who held 2 annas of the same estate under which the defendant occupied the particular lands—being part of the estate in question.

The Moonsiff, it appears, gave the plaintiff a decree, which was afterwards set aside by the Zillah Judge for reasons stated in his judgment.

It appears to us, from the circumstances of this case, that the plaintiff came into Court prematurely. The butwarra had not yet been completed. It was uncertain what lands might ultimately be assigned to the plaintiff or to the other co-sharers; and it was therefore quite needless for the plaintiff, and, in fact, he had no *locus standi* to bring the present suit in respect of a mokurruree by which he might never be injuriously affected at all.

We think the suit ought to have been missed on this ground, and neither the J nor the Moonsiff gave the proper dec in the case. The judgments of both Lower Courts, therefore, will be set and the plaintiff's suit dismissed wi prejudice, however, to any claim or which he may hereafter find it necessa advance in respect of the lands in suit.

The plaintiff will pay the costs of the Lower Courts, but in this Court each will pay his own costs.

The 2nd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Gl *Judges.*

Purchaser of a plaintiff's rights—Appeal.

Dhunnoo Sowdagur, *Petitioner,*

versus

Sunnoo Bibee and others, *Opposite Pa*

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Petition

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Hem C der Banerjee* for Opposite Party.

A party who purchases the rights and intere the plaintiffs after a suit has been dismissed is entitled to appeal against the order of dismissal out joining the original plaintiffs in the suit as a lants.

Kemp, J.—THIS is an application on part of one Dhunnoo Sowdagur to be all ed to appeal specially against the deci passed by the Judge of Chittagong on 6th of May 1870. It appears, and is mitted, that the original plaintiffs w Yusuf Ali and Golam Hossein. They s one Sunnoo Bibee, and the suit was dism ed as against the original plaintiffs. Dh noo Sowdagur, however, who now se to appeal, purchased the rights and inte of the original plaintiffs, Yusuf Ali Golam Hossein, after the dismissal of suit, and he alleges that he is entitled appeal against the decision of the Jud The Deputy Registrar, on the back of petition, certifies that the applicant rep sents himself to be the purchaser of th rights and interests of the plaintiffs, b files no proof in support of his purchase in support of his name having been place on the record before the Lower Court.

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stices Phear and E. Jackson, on the 24th August 1870, directed a rule to issue g upon the other side to show cause in 3 weeks of the service of the rule the applicant should not be allowed to on the appeal.

e think it very clear that, according to ling laid down in Volume IX., Weekly rter, page 311, and particularly with ence to the remarks made by the late d Chief Justice Sir Barnes Peacock, this is a case in which the applicant noo Sowdagur is not entitled to appeal t joining the original plaintiffs in uit as appellants. Not having done d according to the rule laid down in ecision above quoted, we reject his ation to appeal singly.

e say nothing as regards his power to l jointly with the original plaintiffs; d he do so, any objections that may be d with regard to his being out of time then be taken into consideration. The will be discharged with costs.

The 2nd February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Assignment of rent—Tenancy.

No. 1500 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Judge of Gya, dated the st April 1870, modifying a decision of e Deputy Collector of that District, ated the 4th February 1870.

Dhoolee Chund (Defendant), *Appellant.*

versus

Rajroop Kooer and others (Plaintiffs). *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Dass and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Respondents.

A party holding an assignment from the landlord to recover rents from C, a registered tenant, having sued both C and D as co-tenants of the tenure, the suit against D was dismissed by the Lower Courts.

HELD that, as the assignment respected the rents of that tenure, and D had admitted being in possession of the land, the suit ought to have been allowed to proceed against both.

Jackson, J.—IN my opinion, this case has been erroneously tried. The plaintiff, holding a *tunkha* or assignment which enabled her to bring a suit against Dhoolee Chund, the registered tenant of a certain holding, brought a suit against Dhoolee Chund and Deen Doyal as co-tenants thereof.

It appears, at least it is so alleged by the defendant before us, that, under certain family-arrangements, the property, in respect of which the rent is due, is now held by Deen Doyal, and not by Dhoolee Chund; but in consequence of the *tunkha* on which the plaintiff sues, not specifying the name of Deen Doyal, the Lower Court declined to entertain the suit as against Deen Doyal, although Deen Doyal in his own answer admitted that he was in possession of the land, and therefore, of course, liable for the rent.

Having released Deen Doyal in this way, the Court then went on to try whether Dhoolee Chund was liable for the rent. The Deputy Collector considered that he was not liable; but on appeal the Zillah Judge, upholding the order as to Deen Doyal, reversed the decision in regard to Dhoolee Chund, and gave plaintiff a decree against the latter.

Against that decree the defendant Dhoolee Chund has come up in special appeal. I should have thought that, if the plaint had been improperly framed by reason of Deen Doyal being sued, although the *tunkha* did not enable the plaintiff to sue him, the whole suit ought to have been dismissed. But, in reality, it seems to me that the objection was an invalid one; that the landlord had assigned the right to recover the rents in respect of that tenure to the plaintiff,

and that the name of Dhoolee Chund alone being specified was referable to the fact that he was the registered tenant. I think, therefore, more especially when Deen Doyal admitted being in possession of the land, that the suit ought to have been allowed to proceed against both of them. The result of the Lower Courts' not doing so has been that great complication has arisen. A party has been made answerable for rent in respect of land of which he is not in possession, and the party who has admitted himself to have been in possession of the land has been absolved from liability to pay rent. A further complication in regard to costs has also resulted.

I think the trial of both the Courts ought to be set aside, and the suit ought to be remanded in order that the Deputy Collector should try whether both Dhoolee Chund and Deen Doyal, or, if not both, which of them, is liable for this rent.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 3rd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Certificate of administration—Section 5, Act XXVII. of 1860—Jurisdiction—Procedure.

Case No. 406 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 6th August 1870.

Gour Soondur Paroy and another (Objectors), *Appellants,*

versus

Kristo Kant Mahaton (Petitioner), *Respondent.*

Baboo Preonath Banerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Respondent.

Where security has been taken by an order of the High Court from the holder of a certificate under Act XXVII. of 1860, a Zillah Judge is not competent own motion to release the money and give it back he thinks the time for doing so has arrived, it him to report the circumstance to the High Co orders.

Such security should not be returned before piration of the time allowed by law to an opposing ant for bringing a regular suit.

Glover, J.—Kristo Kant Mahato tained a certificate under Act XXVII. of to collect debts due to a certain estate. the application of the present objector by an order of this Court passed on th of July 1867, the Judge was direct take security from Kristo Kant under tion 5 of the Act. Security to the a of 500 rupees was taken accordingly. certificate-holder now applies to have money refunded to him on the groun the time for appealing against the passed under Act XXVII. has ex The Judge considered (for reasons giv him in his decision) that he had autho cause the refund of the security-money finding that the period for appealing a the order under Act XXVII. of 1860 expired, he made an order according the refund of the money to the petitione

It appears to us that the Judge in thi wrong. Section 5 of the Act lays it in express words that the object of security from a certificate-holder is demnify any person who may be found after in a regular suit to have a right moneys collected as owner of the e Now, as a regular suit for immoveable perty is within time if brought withi years from the time the cause of action it is clear that, if this money is given ba the petitioner before the expiration o time allowed by law for bringing a re suit, the object of taking the security be altogether defeated. But in any we think that the Judge would not be petent of his own motion to release the ney and give it back to the petitioner. order to take security was passed by a sion Bench of this Court, and the only left to the discretion of the Judge was amount of security to be taken. If Judge considered that the time had come releasing the money thus deposited, it for him to have reported the circumstance this Court, and to leave this Court to pass own order in the matter.

The appeal is, therefore, allowed, and order of the Judge reversed with costs.

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The 3rd February 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

nhancement of rent—Rule of proportion—Procedure.

Case No 1609 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by e Additional Judge of Hooghly, dated e 23rd May 1870, affirming a decision the Deputy Collector of that District, ted the 28th February 1870.

Kishen Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

ee Churn Dobaree and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

oos *Hem Chunder Banerjee* and *Umbika Churn Banerjee* for Appellants.

aboos *Mohinee Mohun Roy* and *Pearee Mohun Mookerjee* for Respondents.

a suit for enhancement of rent on the ground that roduce and productive powers of the land have inased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense e ryots, where defendants plead protection under on 4 Act X. of 1859, if the Judge finds that this is not made out, and that the plaintiff establishes ground of his claim, he must apply the rule of proon laid down in the Full Bench ruling in the case hakooranee Dossee.

Kemp, J.—This was a suit to enhance rent payable by the special respondents service of notice. The former rent appears to have been Rupees 104-15 annas, and enhanced rent now demanded is Rupees -11 annas 17 gundas on a holding of 33 ghs 18 cottahs of land.

The ground upon which the zemindar seeks enhance was that the value of the proce and the productive powers of the land ve increased otherwise than by the agency r at the expense of the ryots.

In the first Court the Deputy Collector found that the ryots had made out their plea under Section 4 of Act X. of 1859, and with reference to the ground upon which enhancement was claimed, he found that the plaintiff had failed to prove that the value of the produce or the productive powers of the land had increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryots. The suit was therefore dismissed.

On appeal to the Additional Judge of Hooghly, he laid down the issue properly, namely, he said that the question for the Court to decide was whether the plaintiff was entitled to receive from the defendants rent at the increased rates, and on the grounds mentioned in the notice served on the latter, namely, that the value of the produce and the productive powers of the defendant's land had increased without the agency or at the expense of the ryot; but in deciding this point it is very clear that the Judge throughout his judgment has thought the plaintiff had, not only to make out that the productive powers of the land and the value of its produce had increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot, but that he had also to prove that there was a nett increase in profits to the ryot, after making certain deductions and allowances which are detailed at great length in the decision of the Judge; for we find that in two passages of his judgment he states "that the plaintiff has failed to prove that the defendant's profits are greater than formerly;" and again in the latter portion of his judgment, where he says that he must decide the case on the evidence before him, he says that "there is no evidence to show what is the amount of the defendant's increased profits, or that there are any," and therefore that the case must be dismissed.

In special appeal it is contended that the Judge has wholly misapprehended the requirements of the law under Clause 2, Section 17 of Act X. of 1859; that, as the plaintiff has proved that the value of the produce and the productive powers of the land have increased without the agency or at the expense of the ryots, the plaintiff had made out sufficient grounds to entitle him to a decree; and that the proper mode of determining the case, the plaintiff having made out those grounds, was to follow the rule of proportion as laid down in the celebrated case of Thakooranee Dossee, decided by a Full Bench of the whole Court.*

* 3 W. R., Act X., p. 29.

We think that this case must be remanded for the Judge, in the first place, to try whether the tenure is protected under Section 4 of Act X. of 1859, a point upon which the Deputy Collector came to a distinct finding, and held that the tenure was protected.

The Judge has not noticed this part of the case at all. If he finds that the tenure is not protected under Section 4, then the onus will be on the landlord to prove the ground of his right to enhance and to show that the value of the produce and the productive powers of the land have increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot. With reference to this part of the case, we direct his attention to the Full Bench Ruling to be found in Volume IX. of the Weekly Reporter, page 190, dated 31st of January 1868. He will do well to study carefully the remarks of the learned Chief Justice in that case before coming to a finding upon this issue. All that is necessary for the plaintiff to establish, if the first issue is found in his favor, namely, that the tenure is not protected under Section 4, is that there has been an increase in the value of the produce and in the productive powers of the land, and that such increase has been caused *otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot.* If he establishes this, then under the ruling to be found in the case of Thakooranee Dossee the Judge must apply the rule of proportion as laid down in that case, and award a proportionate increase. In coming to a conclusion as to whether the value of the produce or the productive powers of the land have increased without the agency or at the expense of the ryot, he will not take any one exceptional year in which a temporary increase may have been caused by accidental causes --such as bad harvests and the like; but he must take an average of, say, 4 or 5 years as he may think fit, and apply the principle of proportion as laid down in the case of Thakooranee Dossee. He will do well to weigh the observations made by Mr. Justice Macpherson in that case, *viz.*, "It is necessary that the officer making the inquiry in such a case must be satisfied that the enhanced value of the produce of the land proved by the zemindar is likely to be a durable one, and not an accidental and exceptional high price of a particular year in consequence of drought, scarcity, bad harvests, or other irregular causes."

The case is remanded for the Judge to dispose of it with reference to these remarks.

The 6th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Dwarkanat Mitter, *Judges.*

Joinder of causes.

Cases Nos. 1471 to 1495 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passe the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugul dated the 25th April 1870, affirmi decision of the Moonsiff of that Di dated the 31st December 1869.

Nehal Singh and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Syud Alai Ahmed and others (Defenda *Respondents.*

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry Boodh Sein Singh for Appellants.

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Moulvie Syud hamut Hossein* for Respondents.

A number of cases having been instituted agai same defendant and relating to the same matte plaintiff in one of them applied to both the Lower C to have them all tried together, pointing out partic that the documentary evidence in one of the other was necessary, and should be made use of in the tr his case. This application was refused by the first C and the Lower Appellate Court decided the case o applicant upon evidence recorded with it, and dis of the others as governed by that judgment.

HELD that all the cases should have been tri gether; but as the Judge failed to comply with th plication to do so, he should have tried each case rately on its merits.

Loch, J.—IT appears that all these c were before the Lower Appellate Court one and the same time, and besides t cases there were others against the same fendant and relating to the same matter.

The plaintiff, Nehal Singh, appellant in case before us, applied to both the Courts low to have all the cases tried together, poi ing out particularly that the documen evidence in Jotee Singh and Hur Dyal's c was necessary, and should be made use of the trial of his case.

The first Court refused to take all the ca together, giving a most unsatisfactory rea for such refusal, and the Lower Appell Court passed no order at all. The Low Appellate Court, however, decided the ca of Nehal Singh upon evidence that was r corded with it, and then disposed of th other 24 cases as governed by the judgme passed in that case.

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It is clear that, if the Judge failed to comply with the prayer of the petitioner, he would have tried each case separately on its merits, and should not have made all the cases dependent upon the judgment passed in Lehal Singh's case, for, although we find that in this case there was a summary order of the Collector of 1853 on which the Judge evidently relied as showing that limitation barred the suit, yet that judgment was not found in 15 out of the 25 cases, and is not applicable to any of those 15.

We think that the Subordinate Judge has failed to give any good reason for refusing the prayer of the petitioner, and by his refusal has caused a considerable degree of confusion in the disposal of these appeals. We think, that the ends of justice and the proper determination of the question between the parties, all these cases should be tried together, and all the evidence which is put forward in them should be looked to; and if necessary, the Court should send for the records of Jotee Singh and Hur Dyal's case, and having gone through all the evidence pass a proper decision.

The costs will abide the ultimate result.

Mitter, J.—I concur.

The 6th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Ancestral property—Partition—Pleadings.

Case No. 1585 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated the 27th April 1870, affirming a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 24th July 1869.

Ram Lochun Pattuck (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Raghoobur Dyal and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Khetter Nath Bose for Respondents.

In a suit to obtain by partition half of an ancestral dwelling-house in which defendant was living, the latter averred that the house in which plaintiff was living was likewise ancestral, and that, in a partition between them, the houses which they respectively occupied had fallen to their respective shares. Plaintiff replicated that his house was not ancestral, but had been purchased out of his own funds.

HELD that it was necessary to inquire into plaintiff's title under the whole circumstances of the case, and when it appeared that he was in separate occupation of a portion of the ancestral dwelling-house, whether he had a right to the partition of the one without bringing the other into hatchpot.

Jackson, J.—IN this case, it appears to me that the decisions of both the Lower Courts are erroneous, although they do not agree in the *ratio decidendi.*

The plaintiff sued to obtain by partition half of an ancestral dwelling-house in which the defendant was living. The defendant answered that the dwelling-house in which he lived was, no doubt, ancestral, but he also averred that the house in which the plaintiff himself was living was likewise ancestral, and he declared that in a partition between them the houses which they respectively occupied had fallen to their respective shares. The plaintiff appears to have put in a sort of replication to this, in which he denied that the house in which he lived was ancestral, and declared that he had purchased it out of his own funds.

The Court of first-instance enquired into the two allegations, *viz.*, whether there had been a partition or no, and whether the house occupied by the plaintiff had been purchased by him. It found both points in the negative, but it declared that, as the defendant did not seek for a portion of the house occupied by the plaintiff, and as the house occupied by the defendant was admittedly ancestral, the plaintiff must be entitled to a half share of it, and that the defendant would be at liberty to take any course he might think fit in regard to the other dwelling-house. It, therefore, gave plaintiff a decree.

This case going on before the Subordinate Judge, he affirmed the judgment of the Court below, but considered that it was irregular to go into the question of purchase by the plaintiff, inasmuch as the suit of the plaintiff related to the one house alone.

Now, it seems to be obvious that, when the plaintiff sought to recover by partition half of one of the ancestral dwelling-houses, it was necessary for the Court to inquire whether, in the whole circumstances of the case, the plaintiff was entitled to that partition or no; and when it appeared that the plaintiff was already in separate occupation of a portion of the ancestral dwelling-house, the Court would have to decide whether he

had a right to the partition of the one house without bringing the other into hatchpot. In point of fact, it would seem to be a very probable account of the matter that, one party having got one of the houses and the other party the other, they were respectively occupying these two houses by agreement.

I think, therefore, that the decisions of both Courts must be set aside, and the case must go back to the Court of first instance, in order that, regard being had to the facts found, it may determine whether the plaintiff was entitled to any further partition or no. That Court could not refer the defendant to a separate suit, but must decide the case with reference to the whole of the circumstances.

The costs of special appeal will be costs in the cause.

It is necessary to add that the first Court appears to have gone entirely on the failure of proof of a formal partition, that is to say, of a partition reduced in writing, and arrived at with certain formalities; but it was not necessary that such a partition should be proved. It was quite competent to the Court to infer from the facts that the parties had come to an arrangement amongst themselves, one to occupy one house, and the other the other.

Ainslie, J.—I am of the same opinion.

The 6th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Sections 11 and 12, Act XI. of 1859—Partition—Jurisdiction—Parties—Decree—Possession.

Case No. 1940 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Sylhet, dated the 9th May 1870, modifying a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 15th July 1869.

Hur Gobind Dass (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Buroda Pershad Dass (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. C. Piffard and *Baboos Hem Chun Bannerjee, Mohinee Mohun Roy,* *Huree Mohun Chatterjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Ashootosh Dhur and *Kalee Moh Dass* for Respondent.

In a suit for a declaration of plaintiffs' right to ij or joint possession of a zamindaree and for posse of two plots from which they alleged they had been possessed, and also to set aside proceedings tak the Collector under Sections 11 and 12, Act XI. of on the application of the other sharers (defend while plaintiffs were minors, notwithstanding mother's protest and without inquiry :

HELD that it was open to the plaintiffs to conte a civil suit that no separation of shares ought to been granted by the Collector, because the lands are *ijmalee* by all the sharers, and here has never any apportionment.

In such a suit the Collector is not a necessary p

Where possession is given to one of two joint ho of a decree, it must be held to be given on behalf of

Jackson, J.—WE think we need not upon the respondent to answer the ob tions raised in this special appeal.

We have heard the learned Counsel the special appellant at great length, we have given very full consideration to the points which he has urged for the cial appellant. The special appeal is fro decision of the Judge of Sylhet The suit instituted in the Court of the Subordin Judge of Sylhet. The plaintiffs alle that they were the proprietors of a 4-an *ijmalee* share in a certain estate with exception of certain plots of land, and clai ed generally as regards those ijmalee ri in the 4 annas for a declaration of their ti they claimed also as regards two plots of l a two-anna share under a different ti The cause of action stated by the plaint was that the defendants Hur Gobind D and Gour Chunder Dass, the owners of remainder of this ijmalee estate, had alie ated certain specific plots of ground in t names of their wives, and had presented petition to the Collector under Section 1 Act XI of 1859, asking that a separate a count might be opened for that separa portion of the estate which they so mad over to their wives, and might be dealt wit as a separate estate on the Collector's rent roll. The plaintiffs said that these proceed ings of the defendants were fraudulent, in asmuch as they made over a large quantity of land at a very small amount of jumma that they, the plaintiffs, being co-sharers of the estate, had not recognized that jumma as being the proportionate jumma for those

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nds; that the transaction took place while ey, the plaintiffs, were minors; that their other protested before the Collector against is separation; that the Collector rejected eir application without any inquiry, and ent on to accede to the request of the defendants, and constituted these separate lands a separate estate, and ordered a separate ount to be kept in his office for the share the lands so made over by the defendants their wives. The plaintiffs now sue to aside all these proceedings, and they sue recover possession of two annas of two ts of land, of which they say they have n dispossessed, and to recover wassilat.

Both the Lower Courts have concurred on question of fact which was raised in this ation. They were satisfied that the ntiff's statement that the lands of the e were ijmalee, and not separated amongst sharers of the estate, was the true story, that the defendants' statement that there been separation was incorrect. Both the er Courts have accordingly decreed the ntiff's suit on all points.

The Judge, in the first instance, had some tation as to whether a suit could be ght in the Civil Court to set aside the ceedings of the Collector under Section Act XI. of 1859. But, on reviewing his ment on this point, and following a precent of this Court, he came to the conclu that he had authority, and he according decreed the plaintiff's claim.

The special appeal to this Court is on nuous points. The first point is that there been a misjoinder of claims, and that all defendants were not parties to the whole the different claims which were raised in plaint. Section 8, Act VIII. of 1859, ws a joinder of claims as between the e parties. In this case, the defendants either Hur Gobind Dass and Gour nder Dass or their wives; and certainly, regards the main claim, the whole of the endants were interested. As regards a y small portion indeed of the wassilat y could it even be pretended that some of e defendants were not interested, and even gainst them the claim I understand made inst the whole of the defendants. Whe, therefore, they are liable or not is the estion. But as the claim was put, there as no misjoinder.

The next point urged was that the plaintiffs had not come into Court within three years of an Act IV. award. It appears, however, that there was no Act IV. award as between the present plaintiffs and the defendants. On the contrary, the plaintiffs and the defendants were in that Act IV. case arrayed upon the same side, and obtained a decree. Whether actual possession was ultimately given to the defendants or not is immaterial. It has been very properly held by the Lower Courts that the decree being to both, if the possession was given to one, it was given on behalf of both.

Then the third objection which was alleged was that the Civil Court cannot interfere with any proceedings of the Collector under Sections 11, 12, and 13 of Act XI. of 1859, whether those proceedings are regular, or whether they are irregular. In support of this view, a decision of this Court was put before us, to be found in 9 Weekly Reporter, page 534. There is some expression of opinion to this effect in the decision in that case. The question, however, did not really arise, as is evident from the remainder of the decision, because it was found that the plaintiff had no right whatever in the land for which he had brought the suit. There has been a subsequent decision of this Court to be found in 13 Weekly Reporter, page 37, in which Mr. Justice Macpherson, alluding to the former decision, stated that he did not think that under no circumstances whatever could the Collector's proceedings be interfered with, and, in fact, the learned Judges in that case went on to set aside the proceedings of the Collector as having been without jurisdiction. In that case the Collector had been applied to by one of the recorded sharers of a joint estate to open out a separate account as regards his separate share. One of the recorded sharers had appeared before the Collector, and made objections to the application. The Collector, disregarding the provisions of Section 12, Act XI. of 1859, which directs that in such a case the Collector shall refer the parties to the Civil Court, went on and ordered the separation of the share of the estate. Mr. Justice Macpherson held that such proceedings were against the law, and that the acts of the Collector were, therefore, void, and should be set aside.

In this case also, it seems to us that, upon the finding of the Courts below, the proceedings of the Collector were without jurisdiction. The law (Section 11, Act XI. of 1859) distinctly allows the Collector to act only where the application is made

by a recorded sharer of a joint estate whose share consists of a specific portion of the land of the estate. It has been found by both the Courts that the shares of this estate have not been separated, and that the defendants are not the proprietors of a specific portion of the land of the estate, but that the plaintiffs have an ijmalee 4-anna share of all the lands in the estate with the exception of a few specific portions. When this application on the part of the defendants was made to the Collector, it does not appear that any inquiry was made by the Collector. There does not appear on these Sections to be any form in which any inquiry shall be made in order to ascertain whether the facts stated in the petition are correct. It is said that the Collector shall publish a notice of the application; and if no objection is urged by any recorded co-sharer, the Collector shall comply with the application. The objection which was made on this occasion on the part of the plaintiffs while they were minors was rejected, not after any inquiry, not after ascertaining whether it was true that the defendants held a specific portion of the estate, but solely on the ground that plaintiffs' names were not recorded as co-sharers in the Collector's rent-roll. The plaintiffs, therefore, did all they could to prevent the Collector from carrying out the provisions of this law to their injury. The Collector being unable, as the law stands, to afford any remedy, it seems to me that they are fully entitled to come into the Civil Court for a redress of the injury which they have sustained under these proceedings.

It has also been objected that, the Collector not having been made a party to these proceedings, no order can be passed as regards the Collector, and that the proceedings have thus become void. In fact, however, the Collector is not in any way a necessary party to these proceedings. The real question is, as between the parties themselves, whether the plaintiffs are owners of an ijmalee share of the estate, or whether the plaintiffs and the defendants have been separate, and they are in possession of distinct shares. That is the point for decision, and on that point, of course, it is not necessary that the Collector should be in any way made a party. The Courts having decided in favor of the plaintiffs' allegation, it follows that the Collector's proceedings fall of themselves to the ground. The Collector has, in fact, separated and declared a certain specific land of the estate as belonging to the defendants, which land, in reality, belo partly to the plaintiffs. The Collector sho we think, alter his register in accorda with the facts found in the decisions of Courts below.

In addition to these, however, ob tions were also urged against the find of fact upon which the Lower Courts h their decisions. It was said that even plaintiffs' own title-deeds and the manne dealing with the property in successive s proved that the different vendors dealt their portions as if they were separate not ijmalee. The learned Counsel had through these different deeds, but he fai satisfying us that this is the case. We th that, upon the face of those deeds, there h no specification of any land whatever, boundaries having been given of the diffe plots of land thus alienated, those deeds p *primâ facie* that the different shares of estate were ijmalee, and not separate.

Then it is said that no sufficient co deration was given to the butwarra. butwarra, however, does not distinctly m tion the specific portions of land as belon to specific sharers of the estate, and butwarra was rejected by the Lower Co on the ground that there was no suffic evidence to prove that it was executed, that it was acted upon; and certainly th is this remarkable fact that out of the 8 bills of sale, not a single one of them ludes to this butwarra.

Further objection is also taken that defendants Hur Gobind Dass and G Chunder Dass have been saddled with the costs of this case. We think, howe that they have been very properly m liable. It was their act which caused these proceedings, and the other defenda are their wives. It does appear to us t the whole of their proceedings have been *bonâ fide*, that they have been attem ing to carve out a certain share of t estate in the name of their wives, and th have been very properly made liable to p all the costs of the case.

We think that this special appeal sho be dismissed with costs. Hur Gobind D and Gour Chunder Dass will pay all th costs of the case.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur in dismissi the appeal. I am of opinion that the Civ Court has jurisdiction to try the prese suit, being one for a declaration of th

plaintiff's right to an ijmalee or joint-possession of a zemindaree, and for possession of plots of land from which the plaintiff alleges he has been dispossessed. The contention raised by the learned Counsel for the appellant, to the effect that the determination of the Collector under Sections 11 and 12 of Act XI. of 1859 was final, and that the only remedy left to the other co-sharers to have an account opened for himself, is evidently wrong.

The contention of the plaintiff, which the Courts find to be correct, namely, that there was no specification or partition of the lands of the zemindaree, and that, therefore, the Collector had no jurisdiction to proceed under Section 11 of the enactment in question, goes to the very foundation of the authority of the Collector. Section 11, Act XI. of 1859, enacts that, "when a recorded sharer of a joint estate, whose share consists of a specific portion of the land of the estate, desires to pay his share of the Government revenue separately, he may submit to the Collector a written application to that effect." Now, where the Collector has proceeded to a separation of shares consisting of particular and specific portions of zemindaree lands by opening a separate account with one of the sharers, without any inquiry whatsoever, merely on an *ex-parte* statement of the sharer who desires to have such a separation under Section 11, it is, I apprehend, open to a party who is aggrieved by such a separation to contend by a civil suit that no separation ought to have been granted, because the lands are held *ijmalee* by all the sharers, and there has never been any apportionment of the lands. Further, I am of opinion that it is not correct to say that the Collector passed any decision at all in this case. The law makes no provision for any inquiry by the Collector, and therefore a Collector's order is not a decision.

We find that Section 12 enacts that, whenever any recorded sharer objects to the opening of the separate account prayed for by a coparcener on any of the grounds specified in that Section, the Collector shall refer the parties to the Civil Court, suspending all proceedings till the objection is judicially determined by a Court competent to decide questions of right between the parties, *i. e.*, the Civil Court. The Collector in this case refused to entertain the objection of the plaintiff on the ground that the plaintiff was not a recorded proprietor. The plaintiff, therefore, comes to the Court to which he would have been inevitably referred, if his name had been recorded in the Collector's rent-roll. Now, if we accede to the defendant that his contention is right, we will have to hold that, because the name of the plaintiff was not recorded in the Collectorate, he has no remedy at all. The consequence, perhaps, will be that a joint ijmalee-holder of a zemindaree will at once be made a zemindar of a specific portion of it, without any butwarra either under Act XIX. of 1814 or any partition privately made by the parties and assented to by them. It is preposterous to suppose that, because the Legislature empowers the Collectors to open a separate account with a recorded sharer of a joint estate possessing certain definite portions of the lands as his share of the zemindaree, when there is no objection on the part of the other sharers, that therefore, even where there are objections, and most valid and material ones, to the proceedings of the Collector, namely, that he, the Collector, had no jurisdiction under Section 11 of the Act, that if the Collector proceeds nevertheless to open the separate account, the party, *i. e.*, the sharer aggrieved, will have no remedy, but must remain content to see that his possession over all the lands of the zemindaree as an ijmalee holder is at once, at the fiat of the Collector, converted into an exclusive possession of perhaps a very inadequate and unfair portion of the same.

Moreover, according to Section 1, Act VIII. of 1859, the Civil Court is empowered to "take cognizance of all suits of a civil nature when their cognizance is not barred by any Act," &c. There is no law which bars the cognizance of suits of this nature, but there is, on the other hand, a clear and positive enactment, to the effect that, if there is any objection by another shareholder, that objection must be decided judicially by the Civil Court before the Collector can proceed.

It is said that the plaintiff has mistaken his remedy, and that his proper course was to have obtained a registration of his name in the Collectorate and then to have applied to that officer to open a separate account with him. But this argument carries with it its own refutation. The plaintiff does not say that his share consists of a specific portion of the land of this estate, and his allegation is also that the male defendants have falsely and fraudulently set forth the best lands of the zemindaree as appertaining to his specific portion therein. If he applies to the Collector,

he can only do so on an allegation that his share of the zemindaree consists of separate lands, which is simply not his case. I, therefore, think there is no force in the contention of the appellant that the Civil Courts have no jurisdiction to entertain suits of this nature. In this view of the law, I am supported by a decision of this Court, reported in Volume XIII., Weekly Reporter, page 37, Civil Rulings.

The other objections raised in this appeal have been met and disposed of by my learned colleague, and I agree in the reasons given by him for rejecting them as untenable.

The 7th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Act XVIII. of 1869—Stamps—Civil Courts—Pottahs—Court of Wards.

Case No. 1560 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Chittagong, dated the 7th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Additional Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 25th February 1870.

Mahomed Reza and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

The Collector of Chittagong and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Appellants.

Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee, Juggodanund Mookerjee, and *Jadub Chunder Seal* for Respondents.

Act XVIII. of 1869 allows the Civil Court to receive the proper amount of stamp, not only in cases of insufficiency of stamp but also where documents have not been stamped at all.

Where a pottah without any term of years is granted by a Court of Wards, it must be considered as not extending over ten years; and on the expiry of that period, if the lessee refuses, after notice, to appear and make a fresh settlement, the Collector may settle with other parties.

Jackson, J.—We think that the Lower Appellate Court is wrong in stating that a Civil Court is not authorized under present stamp law to receive the pro amount of stamp which should have be affixed on the plaintiff's pottah under law in force when it was executed. Un the present law, the power of the C Court differs to some extent from its pow under Act X. of 1862. Act XVIII. of 1 allows the Civil Court to receive the pro amount of stamp, not only in cases of sufficiency of stamp, but also in cases wh documents have not been stamped at Although, however, we think that Lower Court is wrong on this point, we think that it is not necessary to remand case for a fresh decision. This is a su recover possession of certain land on allegation that the plaintiff had obtain pottah from the Collector acting on the of the Court of Wards. It appears that document which was not sufficiently stam was a talookdaree pottah. If, however, talookdaree pottah is taken into consid tion, it will appear to be a pottah wit any term of years, and it must, therefore, considered to be a pottah not extending ten years, which, under the law, is the lon period for which the Court of Wards grant such a pottah. It is admitted in case that ten years have expired, and also admitted that the Collector wishin make a re-settlement of this land gave no to the plaintiff to appear and make a fr settlement. The plaintiff refused to app and thereupon the Collector made a fr settlement with other parties who h duly taken possession. The plaintiff is entitled, under the circumstances, to ob re-possession of the land.

It is said that, even if, under the term the pottah, the period of holding the l was concluded, still the plaintiff was entit to a fresh settlement. The Collector pears to have been willing to make a fr settlement with the plaintiff, but he refused appear.

Lastly, it is said that, although the taloo daree pottah was no longer in existen still the plaintiff ought to be put in poss sion of the land as an occupant ryot. think it is hardly necessary to decide such allegation; there is no doubt that it quite unfounded.

We think, under these circumstances, it unnecessary to remand the case. We dis miss the suit with all costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 7th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Declaratory suit—False documents—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1665 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Dacca, dated the 12th February 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Naraingunge, dated the 30th July 1869.

Chunder Tuppadar and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Ram Churn Doss and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Nuleet Chunder Sein and *Okhil Chunder Sein* for Appellants.

Baboo Kalee Kishen Sein for Respondents.

Sued T for arrears of rent on the allegation that he held a kursa jumma. T admitted only a lower rent, claiming that he held a jumma under a meeras-howla-pattah. The result not being favorable to D, he brought a suit for a declaration that the pottah put forward by T as a meeras-howlah pottah was a false document.

HELD that the plaintiff was bound to make out a prima-facie case, before the onus could be thrown upon the defendant of proving the genuineness of his pottah.

Jackson, J.—THIS case arose out of certain proceedings under Act X. of 1859.

The plaintiff sued the defendant for certain arrears of rent, alleging that he held a kursa jumma. The defendant, in answer, alleged that he held a meeras-howladaree jumma under a meeras-howla pottah. The plaintiff's contention was that the rent was Rupees 4-1, and the defendant's contention was that the rent was Rupees 2-4. The quantity of land in dispute is one kanee. The proceedings under Act X. did not result favorably to the plaintiff; and in consequence of that, the plaintiff has brought this suit for a declaration that the pottah put forward by the defendant as a meeras-howla pottah is a false document.

The Lower Courts have decreed the plaintiff's claim, and on special appeal the defendant has taken objection to the grounds on which that judgment has been based. We have heard the case at great length, and have passed in review the whole of the evidence put forward by the parties. On the part of the plaintiff there seems hardly any evidence at all The plaintiff has not even put in his zemindaree-papers to show that the rent which he alleges that the defendant paid is the rent which he has all along paid. He has not proved in any way in what manner the tenure commenced. There are some vague assertions that it commenced some 18 or 19 years ago; but in what manner and under what circumstances the tenure was created, there is a total absence of all evidence. The defendant, on the other hand, has proved his howla-pottah of the year 1211; he has produced a number of old receipts which mention that they were receipts for rent paid for a howladaree-jumma; he has shown that, nearly 12 years ago, when the estate in which this jumma is situate was surveyed, the agent of the then zemindar admitted that the defendant's family held certain howladaree lands; he has shown that Ram Chunder Doss, the person by whom the howladaree pottah is signed, is alluded to in certain *goshowra* papers in the Collectorate as having been the malik of this estate. Both the Courts have rejected the whole of the evidence put forward by the defendant. They seem to have put the whole onus in this case upon the defendant; neither Court alludes in any way to the evidence of the plaintiff. The pottah is rejected by the Appellate Court, because no evidence was produced to show from whose custody it came. The old dakhilas and the old kubooleuts put in by the defendant are rejected for very much the same reason. The important document, namely, the admission of the plaintiff's predecessor's agent before the survey-authorities, is set aside, first, because there is no evidence to show that the agent, one Bungo Chunder Doss, was the agent of the then zemindar, Mr. Lamb; secondly, because there was no identification of the land at that time; and, thirdly, because there was no evidence that this agent had any authority to make any such admission. The document from the Collectorate is set aside, because

there is no direct evidence that Ram Chunder Doss was the owner of the talook, and the mere fact that he is mentioned as such in the Collectorate papers, which are not very ancient, would not be sufficient evidence on the point.

The special appeal before us is on the ground that it is not right to reject the whole of the principal documents, simply because evidence was not given as regards their custody, and that, as regards the thak proceedings, there is direct evidence on the part even of the plaintiff's witnesses proving that Bungo Chunder was the agent of the plaintiff's predecessor, Mr. Lamb. On this point there has been certainly a clear mistake on the part of both the Lower Courts. There is direct evidence on the part of the plaintiff's own witnesses that Bungo Chunder was the agent of the plaintiff's predecessor, and the thak proceedings show that he was acting as the agent at the time of the survey; and that, long before the contention between the present parties commenced, it was admitted that the defendant's ancestor held a howla within this estate. Such admissions are undoubtedly evidence, and very strong evidence, in support of the defendant's case.

The Courts below seem to me, however, to have been wrong in law in throwing the whole onus in this case on the defendant. The plaintiff has not brought this suit to obtain possession of the land; he has brought this suit simply for a declaration as regards this plot of land, that the pottah which the defendant has put forward is false. Admitting that such a suit can be brought, I certainly think that it is for the plaintiff to produce some evidence in support of his allegation. If the defendant had not appeared at all in this case, the plaintiff would have been bound to prove his allegation before he could obtain a decree. In the same way, even if the defendant appears, it seems to me that the plaintiff must make out some *primâ-facie* case. Of course, if he can show at all any ground whatever for suspecting the pottah, then the onus of proving the genuineness of the pottah falls upon the defendant. The documents by which the tenure is supported in this case are documents of ancient date; and though it is possible that it would have been better if the defendant had been called on to prove that these were the documents under which he held the tenure, and whence he had obtained them, and where he kept them, still I am not prepared to say that these documents are to be declared fa simply because the defendant did not foll this particular procedure. The docume have come from the proper custody and f the person in whose custody they would turally be, and no sufficient reason is g to my mind for rejecting them. It is c tainly not right in law to declare them fa because the defendant did not give his o deposition, stating whence he had obtai them. It by no means follows that they false, even if they are not proved.

But the tenure, being supported, not o by these ancient documents, but also admissions from the zemindar's agent d many years back, affords a strong pres tion that the tenure is really what is s by the defendant, namely, a howla. the Courts admit that, for many years, defendant has been in possession of tenure. In fact, his possession seems t back to such a date that neither the plai nor the defendant can give any dis evidence as to who was the zemindar of estate at that time. The defendant's all tion is that Ram Chunder Doss was zemindar. The plaintiff is unable to prove it. The defendant has given no g evidence in support of it. The *gosh* paper, standing alone, as it does, is unint gible. In what manner it was prepared, how and under what circumstances facts stated therein were ascertained, th is no evidence to show.

It seems to have altogether escaped notice of the Lower Court that it is m improbable that, if the defendant wished forge a pottah, he would forge one signed a person regarding whom there was un tain information.

On the whole, after giving to this e long consideration, and after hearing arguments on both sides, we think that th is no sufficient evidence on the record up which the Court can declare the defenda pottah to be false. We think, therefo that the plaintiff's suit to set aside pottah should be dismissed with co We set aside the decision of the Lo Appellate Court as regards the first pl there being no appeal before us as rega the second plot.

We think the costs of all the proceedin as regards the first plot should be bor by the plaintiff.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

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The 7th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Decree for enhancement.

Case No. 1793 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Appeal from a decision passed by the ciating Judge of Purneah, dated the 28th 1870, reversing a decision of the De- Collector of that District, dated the April 1870.

under Mun Chowdhry and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Mun Chowdhry (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

os Taruck Nath Sein and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellants.

oo Kalee Kishen Sein for Respondent.

ree for enhancement of rent can have no re- tive effect.

, *J.*—THE present suit is brought for of rent for 1275 and 1276, Moolkee, allegation that the plaintiff's lessor, orbes, obtained a decree for kubooleut enhanced rate.

judgment of the first Court in which decree was obtained has not been filed; though the judgment of the Appellate confirming that decree is on the re- it gives no information whatever as to amount of the jumma or the duration of kubooleut. As it was, the decree of the Appellate Court in that case bears the 26th June 1868, corresponding to 1275, B. S., or 1276, M. S. Now, as the present suit is for the rents of 1275 and 1276, Moolkee, the decree which was passed in Assar 1276, M. S., can have no retrospective effect, whatever rights the plaintiff may have gained for the years to come.

Another objection taken to the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is that the receipts given by the gomashta of the plaintiff have been found by the Lower Court to be genuine, and, as far as the defendants were concerned, *bonâ fide.* It is clear that these "*farugs*" are acquittances for all demands of rent up to the close of 1275 and 1276; and this being their purport, it is clear that the plaintiff can have no claim against the defendants for the rents of those years.

We think, therefore, that the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court must be set aside with costs of this Court and of that Court, and the decree of the first Court dismissing the suit must be affirmed.

Mitter, J.—I concur in dismissing the suit.

The 8th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Execution of a Collector's decree.

Case No. 1651 of 1834.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Dacca, dated the 12th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Naraingunge, dated the 17th December 1869.

Raj Kishore Mullick *alias* Chytan Krishno Mullick (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Brindabun Chunder Poddar and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Sreenath Banerjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar and *Jadub Chunder Seal* for Respondents.

A Civil Court cannot set aside the proceeding of a Collector in execution of a decree of his own Court.

Jackson, J.—We think we ought not to interfere in this case. We think that the order of the Collector, dated the 30th May 1866, has been very properly stated by the Lower Court to be an order which virtually rescinded the sale as well as the decree, and which also set aside the whole of the proceedings. I am aware that these words are not distinctly stated in the Collector's order; still I have no doubt in my mind that that was the effect of that order, and that that was the intention of that order. The Collector had evidently found that the defendant had not been properly dealt with before the decree had been passed, and that he was entitled to a further trial as to whether the money decreed against him for rent was due by him or not; and therefore the order was passed, however carelessly it was worded, setting aside the proceedings. It seems to me that this Court cannot set aside the proceedings of the Collector in execution. I think that the plaintiff has no case under the circumstances. The Deputy Collector took the same view of the Collector's order, the Collector took the same view of it, and the Board of Revenue took the same view of it. The Deputy Collector did not think it proper to give a bynamah, and I think that on this ground also the decision of the Court below is quite correct. Under the circumstances, the Appellate Court very properly dismissed the suit, and we confirm that decision, and dismiss the appeal with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur in dismissing the appeal. The defendants objected to the sale of their property on several grounds before the Deputy Collector, who, however, overruled them. The defendants then appealed to the Collector, who decreed the same, and remanded the case to the Deputy Collector for further investigation. The legal effect of such an order was to set aside the order of confirmation of the sale passed by the Deputy Collector. On re-trial, the Deputy Collector had to amend his former decree considerably, a pass a fresh one for a much smaller s The plaintiff then applied to the Deputy C lector for a certificate under Section 11 of VIII. of 1865, B. C.; but the Deputy Col tor refused to give him one on the gro that the sale had been set aside by the C lector. The plaintiff then appealed to Collector, who construed his own order a order disallowing the sale. The pla then went to the Commissioner, and ultim ly to the Board of Revenue and the Li nant-Governor, but was everywhere un cessful. He, therefore, instituted this su get possession of the property purchase him and to get a bynamah. I think, the circumstances, that the sale had bee aside, and that, therefore, the plaintiff ha *locus standi.*

It appears to me, moreover, very doub whether a Civil Court can compel the De Collector to grant a sale-certificate to plaintiff for a purchase made by the pla in a sale held by that officer in executio a decree for arrears of rent. In suits rent, the Collector's Court appears to Court of exclusive jurisdiction having powers in the disposal of them. It Court, too, of competent jurisdiction, sales held under decrees passed by the lector cannot, except upon proof of fr be set aside by a Civil Court. I ap hend that a Civil Court cannot, there try whether an order passed by the lector in execution of a decree of own Court was proper or not. If the lector passes a decree for rent, and refuses to execute the same for any re good or bad, I apprehend that the de holder cannot bring a suit in the Civil C to compel the Collector to execute it. only remedy left to the decree-holder in a case appears to me to be by an appe the Court to which the Collector's Cou a subordinate one. I think, therefore, a Civil Court has no power to direct a lector to grant a sale-certificate to a chaser in his Court, when he, the Collec declines to give one on the ground that sale had been set aside.

The Collector is also not made a party this suit, and, having no opportunity of ju fying his refusal, may not be bound by decree of the Civil Court. Under all th circumstances, I think the suit of the pla iff was rightly dismissed by the Court belo and we must dismiss this appeal also wi costs.

The 8th February 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

nsfer of plaintiff's interest—Appeal—Assessment—Right of occupancy.

Case No. 1725 of 1870.

cial *Appeal from a decision passed by* e *Subordinate Judge of East Burd-*wan, *dated the 29th June 1870, reversing* decision *of the Moonsiff of Kytee,* ted *the 31st December 1869.*

Moneerooddeen Mojoomdar (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

otty Churn Ghose and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Advocate-General and *Baboos Unnoda* ershad *Banerjee* and *Romesh Chunder* itter for Appellant.

oos *Mohendro Lall Shome* and *Oopendro Chunder Bose* for Respondents.

ere the whole interest of a sole plaintiff had been erred with his unqualified assent, and the transfer-as substituted for the original plaintiff in the very ion of the case, the defendant's written defence afterwards put in without demur, it was held o be necessary for the original plaintiff to be asso-d with the transferree in an appeal by the latter.

andlord having obtained a decree declaring that homestead land was liable to assessment, the ants, owing to certain criminal proceedings against abandoned the land, and the landlord leased it others who held possession paying rent for up-of 12 years, after which they were ousted by the al occupants who claimed the land rent free. HELD suit by the lessees that they were entitled to recover ession.

Kemp, J.—THE plaintiff is the special ellant.

he suit was to recover possession of ain jummai homestead lands with the of removing a wall erected by the de-ants. One defendant only appeared. e plaintiff alleges that, on the desertion the land by the former tenants, owing to ain fouzdaree proceedings in which rant for their arrest had issued, the ession of the land became vacated, and he obtained a lease from the landlord had been in peaceable possession for y years until forcibly ousted in Bysack 76 by the defendants who have erected a all on the disputed land.

The pottahs under which the plaintiff alleges tenancy are filed, as also receipts for rent from 1262 to 1275. B. S. The plaint was filed on the 13th May 1869. On the 14th idem, and before the written statement of the defendant was filed, the plaintiff sold his rights and interests to one Moneerooddeen, who, with the consent of the original plaintiff and without objection and by order of the Court, was substituted for the original plaintiff, and permitted to carry on this suit.

The defendant who put in an appearance, namely, Parbutty Churn Ghose, alleges that the plaintiff's vendor had no title in the land, and that he was never in possession of the same; that the land in dispute was rent-free land from before 1790 A. D.; that no suit for resumption of this land was instituted; and that the allegation that either the defendant or his predecessors had abandoned the land was false. The defendant admits that some of the houses and the former wall of the homestead were sold in execution of a decree in 1854; that the defendant still remained in possession, dwelling in the western house; that, in the year 1869, the defendant was about to re-erect the other houses and the wall when the landlord put up the plaintiff to bring this false suit; that a long standing feud existed with the former landlord, the late Saroda Pershad Roy.

The landlord put in a written statement supporting the plaintiff. The landlord states that he obtained a decree declaring that the land in dispute was not rent-free, and was liable to assessment; that, owing to certain fouzdaree proceedings, the defendant, with his family, abandoned the land which, becoming vacant, came into the khas possession of this defendant, who leased them out to the plaintiff's vendor; that the allegation of the defendant that any of the former houses remained, or that he was in possession of any portion of the land at any time within 12 years prior to suit, is false.

The first Court, after proceeding to the spot, and making a careful inquiry, in an elaborate and well-considered judgment, found that the defendant and his family deserted the land in dispute in consequence of a criminal action early in 1261 B. S.; that the houses occupied by them were put up to sale to realize a fine imposed upon the defendants by the criminal authorities; that the purchasers at the sale removed the materials of the houses; and the land became vacant, and was leased to the original

plaintiff, who was in possession of the same from 1261 until ousted by the defendant in 1276 B. S.; that copies of certain petitions filed in the Fouzdaree Court, and which have been produced by the plaintiff in this suit, corroborate the allegation made by the plaintiff and his landlord, as well as of the witnesses examined on the spot—that the defendants deserted the lands. Further, that the fact of their having deserted the lands was in a measure corroborated by the circumstance of their having put in no appearance in the suit which the landlord brought for a declaration of his right to assess the lands, and in which suit his right to assess was declared, as it was found that the lands were not rent-free; that payment of rent by the plaintiff has been established by the dakhilas filed by him which have been attested, as well as by the jumma-wasilbakee filed by the landlord. The oral evidence of independent witnesses also proved that the defendants abandoned the land many years ago.

The Moonsiff also prepared a map of the disputed lands. The suit of the plaintiff was, therefore, decreed.

On appeal, the Subordinate Judge of East Burdwan, Baboo Russick Lall Bose, after briefly stating the pleadings, the issues raised in the first Court, and the grounds of appeal, reverses the decision of the first Court, and dismisses the plaintiff's suit.

The Subordinate Judge was of opinion that the map prepared by the Moonsiff, and upon which the Subordinate Judge says "the Moonsiff mainly relied," is "not a valid document at all," because "there was no dispute as to boundaries between the parties to be decided by a map."

He further observed that the Moonsiff had "committed an error in deciding the "case on a mere mention of the several "decisions of the Fouzdaree Court, that the "defendants had deserted the holding for "more than 12 years, and decreeing the "plaintiff's claim on that supposition; for it "appeared that the landlord, Saroda Pershad "Roy, had acquired on the 17th Cheyt 1261 "a decree against the defendant Parbutty "Churn Ghose and his co-sharers, styling "them in that case inhabitants of Pulasun." The Subordinate Judge, therefore, as he says, "failed to understand how the Moon-"siff came to the conclusion that the de-"fendants had deserted the holding in the "year 1261 B. S.

"That the decree passed on the 1 "December 1854, declaring these land "be liable to assessment, was an *ex-p* "decree, Parbutty Churn Ghose not bei "party thereto; that it had not been sh "that this decree was executed in "time; and therefore the zemindar "not acquired any right to hold "land khas, and the defendant is not be "by the acts of the zemindar; th "was very improbable that the def "ants would desert the holding sh "because the zemindar desired to ha "that, as the land had only been dec "liable to assessment as not being "free, the zemindar had no right to "khas possession, and that his leasin "to the plaintiff conferred no title on "plaintiff; that the Moonsiff had misp "the onus, and made the defendant p "his case instead of making the pla "do so."

In special appeal the Advocate-Gen who appears for the special appellant, tends that the Subordinate Judge has mitted many errors in dealing with the and that he has not paid any attentio the real points of the case as found t proved by the Moonsiff. The Advo General observes that the Subordinate J has not taken any notice of the peti presented by the defendant in the Cri Court, which were so far relied upon by Moonsiff as corroborating the truth of allegation of the plaintiff and the landlo that the defendants had abandoned the l that it was not, as supposed by the ordinate Judge, because a suit to assess lands was instituted by the landlord, th is alleged by the plaintiff that the defen abandoned the lands and the possess became vacant, but because of the actio the criminal authorities which forced defendants to leave their homesteads, an remove with their families elsewhere; the plaintiff's right is derived from the zem dar; the plaintiff avers that he had been possession for more than 12 years prio suit adverse to the defendants who abandoned the land. Therefore the qu tion is not so much, as supposed by Subordinate Judge, though wrongly, w ther the landlord had obtained khas pos sion rightly, but whether he had really d so, and then leased to the plaintiff, who, un that lease, had been holding for more th 12 years prior to suit.

We have carefully considered this case.

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The valuation put upon it, namely, 51 ees, is small; but from the earnest man- in which the case has been argued re us, it is clear that the question is of an importance to the parties not to measured by the institution-stamp.

preliminary objection was taken by the der for the special respondent that the tiff Moneerooddeen, who has been sub- ted for the original plaintiff, cannot permitted to appeal alone, without being ciated with the original plaintiff. In ort of this objection, the pleader refers two decisions published in Volume IX., 309 and 487. In the case pub- d at page 309, the first Court had ed a plaintiff to withdraw from a suit t the concurrence of his co-plaint- The decision reported at page 487 e same volume followed the ruling at 309.

this case the objection was not taken ; the plaintiff Moneerooddeen was tuted in the very inception of the case. original and sole plaintiff parted with hole interest, and not with a part of it, the transfer was made with his unqua- assent before the defendant's written ment was put in, and as already said t demur. We overrule this objection, h is purely technical.

e think that the decision of the Subor- te Judge must be reversed, and the ion of the first Court affirmed. The which the Subordinate Judge sets as an invalid document, because the te did not involve a boundary-dispute, made on the spot to ascertain whether house, or rather the two rooms which defendant said he still occupied after his other houses had been sold to satisfy fine imposed upon him by the Criminal horities, was within the limits of the dis- d land, and it was found to be without m. The Moonsiff did not rely merely upon map, as supposed by the Subordinate ge, and the latter was clearly wrong in ecting this map.

Again, the Subordinate Judge is wrong in g that the Moonsiff decided the case on ere mention of the Fouzdaree proceedings. e Moonsiff referred to no fouzdaree pro- edings; but he said, and we think properly, t the evidence of independent witnesses m the spot, who deposed that the defendants, with their families, had abandoned the lands early in 1261, was corroborated, not by Fouzdaree proceedings, but by admissions made in petitions to the Fouzdaree Court by the defendants or their predecessors.

We find that the evidence of the witnesses is greatly supported by the admissions in these petitions, in one of which it is admitted that the defendants had left the village in which the disputed lands are situated to seek service elsewhere, and in the other that they and their families had left the village for many years. The Subordinate Judge then refers to the decision of the 11th Cheyt 1261. Now, it is clear that the suit for assessment was brought in Bysack 1271 or at the very commencement of the year. The mere fact of the defendant being described for the purposes of that suit as residing in Pulasun would not be any evidence that they were really residing there at that time, though they may have been so and have left the village, as deposed to by the witnesses, in consequence of the action of the Criminal Court immediately after or at about the time that the suit for assessment was instituted. Again, the Subordinate Judge thinks that, because the zemindar did not sue for a kubooleut after obtaining a decree to assess the lands, that it must be held that he never duly executed the decree he obtained. Now, the case of the zemindar is that the lands were vacated in 1261, not in consequence of the assessment-suit, but on account of the action of the Criminal Court; and that the lands were vacated early in 1261 has been proved by the evidence.

The view of the case which was taken by the first Court has wholly escaped the attention of the Subordinate Judge. The landlord, right or wrong, leased out the land in dispute to the plaintiff as land the possession of which had been vacated. The plaintiff has proved his possession under this lease and payment of rent for more than 12 years prior to suit. The evidence and all the probabilities of the case support the view taken by the first Court, namely, that these lands were wholly abandoned by the defendants early in 1261, and that the landlord leased them to the plaintiff from that year, and that the plaintiff had been in undisturbed possession paying rent for the same until wrongfully ousted by the defendants in 1276.

We decree the appeal, reverse the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and restore that of the Moonsiff, with costs of all the Courts, bearing interest.

The 9th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Execution—Sale-proceeds.

Case No. 1795 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Dacca, dated the 27th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 29th June 1869.

Lalla Mitterjeet Singh (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Sonatun Doss and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Doorga Mohun Doss and *Rash Beharee Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Respondents.

Of two rival decree-holders against the same judgment-debtor, one (S) attached a house in execution, and the other (L) attached the house as well as the land appertaining to it. In apportioning the sale-proceeds in the execution-department, the Sudder Ameen did not give any portion to S, who accordingly brought a suit for the satisfaction of his claim from the proceeds of the house, on the ground that his had been the prior attachment. The first Court dismissed plaintiff's suit on the ground that it was not satisfied as to the exact value of the house attached; but the Lower Appellate Court decreed it, ordering, however, that the value was to be ascertained by appraisement in execution.

HELD that the Judge should have himself determined and adjudged the value of the house, and not referred that duty to the execution-department.

Mookerjee, J.—IT appears that in this case the plaintiff and the defendant were rival decree-holders against the same judgment-debtor, Sib Chunder Sein. The plaintiff held a decree of the Subordinate Judge's Court, and in execution of that decree attached the buildings of a house. The defendant, who held a decree of the Sudder Ameen's Court, had likewise attached the house as well as the land appertaining to that house. The Sudder Ameen in the execution-department, when apportioning the sale-proceeds, did not give any portion thereof to the plaintiff, and the plaintiff has brought this suit, on the ground that, as he had, previous to the attachment by the defendant, attached the house, he was entitled to satisfied first out of the sale-proceeds. B the Courts are of opinion that the plaintiff had attached the buildings only, while defendant had attached the said house well as the land belonging thereto.

The first Court dismissed the plaintiff's suit, on the ground that it was not satisfied on the evidence put forward by the plaintiff as to the exact value of the house which had attached. The second Court held that "with respect to the value of the land, "evidence of the witnesses is so much "variance with the figures in the kobala "of a 4-anna share filed by appellant, "it is not possible to place any reliance "it." The second Court then proceeds say: "But though it may not be easy "determine the value of the land with "houses standing on it, I apprehend "plaintiff is entitled to get the value of "houses, &c., estimated at what they would "be worth, if so sold, as he attached them "without the land." It gives a decree the plaintiff, but it states that the value the house is to be ascertained by appraisement in execution.

The defendant appeals to this Court, the ground that the Judge was wrong in deciding the case himself, but leaving determination of the value of the house the execution-department. We think contention is good. The Judge ought have decided what was the value of house which was attached by the plaintiff and, having determined and adjudged value, should have awarded that to plaintiff, instead of referring it to the execution-department.

It has been objected to by the respondent under Section 348, Act VIII. of 1859, the decision of the Appellate Court is wrong as it ought to have held that, not only house was attached, but also the land which that house stands; and, secondly that there ought to have been a local investigation as prayed for by him.

As regards the first objection, we see the plaintiff's own vakeel admitted that his client had attached only the building, and not the land; and it is not shown to us what was the property actually attached by him, and the attachment is not produced. We do not consider this objection to be valid.

As regards the second objection, it would be at the discretion of the Court, while ascertaining the value of the buildings, to ascertain it either by the evidence on the record, or by a local inquiry, if that be necessary.

We, therefore, remand this case to the lower Appellate Court to find what was the value of the buildings which had been attached by the plaintiff, and re-try the case.

Costs of this appeal will abide the ultimate result.

The 10th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Putnee rent—Dur-putneedar—Regulation VIII. of 1819—Limitation.

Case No. 1668 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 23rd July 1870, reversing a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 31st March 1870.

Nettur Paul Singh and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Sukhee Narain Mitter and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos *Hem Chunder Banerjee* and *Mohendro Lall Mitter* for Appellants.

Mr. *W. A. Montriou* and *Baboos Sham Lall Mitter* and *Mohendro Lall Seal* for Respondents.

A dur-putneedar paying money as rent to save the putnee from sale is entitled to a refund, even though the same has not been registered in the office of the superior holder.

The status of a dur-putneedar does not depend upon registration or the consent of the zemindar.

In computing limitation, a plaintiff is entitled to deduct the time occupied in prosecuting a suit upon the same cause of action against the same defendant *bonâ fide* and with due diligence in a Court, which, from defect of jurisdiction or other cause, was unable to decide upon it.

Kemp, J.—This is a suit by a dur-putneedar to recover Rupees 3,795-5 annas paid by him to save the superior putnee from sale. The first Court gave the plaintiff a decree. The Judge, on appeal, was of opinion that, as the plaintiff had not established his status as dur-putneedar, inasmuch as he had not registered his name in the office of the superior holder, the payment made by him was a voluntary payment, and he was not entitled to claim any refund.

We are of opinion that the decision of the Judge in this case is wrong in law. There can be no doubt that, under Regulation VIII. of 1819, all putneedars or dur-putneedars have the right to alienate or otherwise transfer their property without the consent of the zemindar. It shall not be competent, says Section 5 of the said Regulation, to the zemindar or other superior holder to refuse to register and otherwise to give effect to such alienations. The status of the plaintiff as dur-putneedar does not, therefore, depend upon registration or the consent of the zemindar.

But it is contended in this case that the special appellant has not conformed to the requirements of Section 5 of the Regulation, that is to say, that he has not furnished security or paid a fee, or obtained registration of his name according to the forms laid down in that Section; and therefore that, not being a dur-putneedar, he is not entitled to claim any refund. We think that this contention is wrong. Under the Regulation, the zemindar or other superior holder in certain cases is empowered to attach the property, if the subordinate holder neglects to register his name, and to hold it in trust for the subordinate holder; and in all cases, until the transfer is registered, the old tenant and the tenure itself are liable for the rent due. There may be cases in which a party may become the purchaser of a dur-putnee, and the superior estate may be put up for sale and sold before he could possibly have time to effect the registration of his dur-putnee rights. Can it be said in cases of this description that, if the dur-putneedar paid a sum of money on account of the rent due by the superior holder, and saved the putnee from sale, he would not be entitled to a refund of the sum so paid? The subordinate holder has an interest of his own to protect, which would be altogether sacrificed if he were not able to save the superior tenure from the hammer, for with the superior tenure all subordinate tenures fall in the event of a sale; and, after all, the duties of the subordinate holder, as prescribed in the Regulation, are formalities. Their primary object is to give the superior holder information of who is his tenant; and until they are conformed to, the superior holder is justified in looking to the registered tenant for his rent.

We reverse the decision of the Judge, restore the decision of the first Court, and decree this appeal with costs in all the Courts.

With reference to the cross-appeal of the special respondent, we observe that the Judge has found as a fact that the plaintiff was prosecuting a suit upon the same cause of action against the same defendant *bonâ fide* and with due diligence in a Court of judicature, which, from defect of jurisdiction or other cause, was unable to decide upon it; and that the plaintiff is, therefore, entitled to deduct from the period of computation the time so occupied under Section 14, Act XIV. of 1859. Further, we are of opinion that the suit of the plaintiff is not governed by the three years' limitation-clause. It is not a suit to recover money lent on interest or for the breach of any contract. The limitation-clause applicable to this suit is Clause 16, Section 1. The plaintiff's cause of action arose in November 1864, and this suit is brought in June 1869 or within six years. The cross-appeal is, therefore, dismissed with costs.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Decree—Mistake in heading.

Case No. 431 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Moorshedabad, dated the 26th August 1870.

Nowab Syud Zoynul Abdeen (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant*,

versus

Phoolash Chunder Bothrah and others (Decree-holders), *Respondents*.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appella

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Do Mohun Doss* for Respondents.

A person to whom the ordering part of a decree nothing cannot be treated as having acquired any in the decree, merely because he has, by mistake, described in the heading as the purchaser of the de holder's rights and interests.

Norman, C. J.—It is quite clear tha decision of the Lower Court in this case be reversed.

The plaintiffs, Bunko Beharee and Ph lash Chunder Bothrah, who have purch the rights and interests of Ram Mo Thakoor, are seeking to execute a de obtained by Khorshed Hossein ag Nowab Syud Zoynul Abdeen, one of defendants. The decree, by mistake headed—"Ram Mohun Thakoor, purch of the rights and interests of Khor Hossein, plaintiff, appellant."

The plaintiff in that suit, who was the appellant in that suit, was Khor Hossein, and the decree ordered payme the costs for which execution is now sou "to the plaintiff, appellant," that is, to Kh shed Hossein.

There is nothing in the decree w made it the duty of the defendants to any payment, to Ram Mohun. It canno contended that Ram Mohun Thakoor really any interest in the decree. The sons now seeking to execute the dec having purchased the rights and interest Ram Mohun Thakoor, have no interest the decree, and cannot be treated as hav acquired any right, merely because a take has been made in the heading of decree. The ordering part of the decree quite correct; the order of the decree gi nothing to Ram Mohun Thakoor.

The decision of the Judge, which allow Bunko Beharee and Phoolash Chunder execute the decree as if it had been a decre in favor of Ram Mohun, is wrong, an is, therefore, reversed with costs in bo Courts.

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The 13th February 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief ustice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Execution—Bona-fide proceeding.

Case No. 408 of 1870.

ellaneous Appeal from an order passed y the Judge of Jessore, dated the 30th uly 1870, reversing an order of the oonsiff of Narail, dated the 18th Decem- r 1869.

ooram Bose (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

inee Churn Ghose and another (Judg- ment-debtors), *Respondents.*

o Mohendro Lall Mitter for Appellant.

os Bungshee Dhur Sein and *Issur under Chuckerbutty* for Respondents.

decree-holder having applied for execution, the ent-debtor applied for a re-hearing; but the latter ation, having been opposed, was rejected. Pend- e proceedings on the application for re-hearing, plication for execution was struck off; but very y after re-hearing was refused, the decree-holder d again for execution.

LD that the omission of the decree-holder to on execution-proceedings pending the appli- n for re-hearing was no evidence of want of *bona*

orman, C. J.—THE case is very sim- This was a decree which was affirmed ppeal on the 9th of February 1864. the 4th of February 1867, the decree- rs, Titooram and Shama Soonduree, ed for execution. The application Shama Soonduree was as the heir of of the original defendants, Guggun. Moonsiff directed that proof should be in that Shama Soonduree was the heir Guggun. On the 13th of February, days after the application for execution, judgment-debtors, who were plaintiffs e original suit, applied for a re-hearing e case. That application was opposed behalf of the two decree-holders, Titooram Shama Soonduree; and the application a re-hearing was rejected on the 4th of y. Pending the proceedings on the ap- ation for a re-hearing by the plaintiffs, application for execution by the decree- ders was struck off; but very shortly er the plaintiff's application had been dis- ed of, namely, on the 28th of June 1867, Titooram and Shama Soonduree again applied for execution of their decree, and from that time to the time of the present application, namely, in June 1869, there is no ground for saying that Titooram was remiss in endeavouring to press on the case in the execution-department.

The Moonsiff held that the action taken by the decree-holders in opposing the application of the plaintiffs for a re-hearing was proof that they were *bonâ fide* taking proceedings to keep their judgment in force, and that the application of the 4th February 1867 was a proceeding taken *bonâ fide* to enforce the judgment.

The Judge says that he is of a different opinion. But in this we cannot concur. There is nothing whatever to show that the application of the 4th of February was not a step taken in good faith with a view to execute the decree; and we think that the mere fact that, pending the application for a re-hearing, the decree-holders did not think fit to carry on these proceedings, is no evidence whatever that that step was not taken in good faith.

The judgment of the Judge is reversed, and that of the first Court is restored and affirmed with costs in both Courts.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Sale of decree—Set-off—Sections 208 and 209, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 411 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 23rd July 1870, affirming an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 31st December 1869.

Kusseemoonissa Bibee (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Mr. Archibald Hill (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose for Appellant.

Baboos Umbika Churn Bose, Bhowanee Churn Dutt, and *Bipro Doss Mookerjee* for Respondent.

Where the purchaser of a decree proceeds to execution under Section 208, Code of Civil Procedure, the judgment-debtor cannot be allowed a set-off on account of joint-decrees obtained by himself and others against the vendor subsequent to the sale of the purchased decree.

Even where such decrees are obtained before the sale of the first decree, they cannot be set off against the purchaser under Section 209, not being "cross-decrees against the same parties."

Norman, C. J.—In this case Kusseemoonissa Bibee had brought a suit against Golam Kadir, which was dismissed with costs in 1866. Golam Kadir transferred that decree to Mr. Archibald Hill on the 13th Bhadur 1275, or, in other words, August 1868.

Kusseemoonissa Bibee, with certain other persons, her sisters, obtained two other decrees against Golam Kadir, the exact dates of which do not appear; but as the suits are numbered 222 and 223 of 1868, they were probably, we may say almost certainly, and we may take them to be in the absence of any proof to the contrary, of later date than Mr. Hill's purchase.

Mr. Hill, as purchaser of the decree of Golam Kadir against Kusseemoonissa Bibee, applied for execution of his decree under Section 208 on the 5th of March 1869. Kusseemoonissa opposed and claimed to set off the decrees obtained by herself and her sisters against Golam Kadir—the sisters, as it appears, having put in a petition giving their consent to the set-off.

The Subordinate Judge in the first instance and Mr. Pepper, the Additional Judge of Nuddea, affirming the decision of the Subordinate Judge, determined that Mr. Hill, the decree-holder, was entitled to proceed, and that Kusseemoonissa could not set off the decrees obtained by herself and her sisters against the decree which was being executed by Mr. Hill.

From that decision Kusseemoonissa has appealed to this Court.

We are of opinion that the decree of the Lower Courts is correct. In the first place, as we have already pointed out, it is not made to appear that the decrees in favor of Kusseemoonissa and her sisters had been obtained by them at the time when Mr. Hill purchased the decree of Golam Kadir in August 1868. On that ground the case is distinguishable from that decided by the Full Bench on the 6th August 1868, and reported in 10 Weekly Reporter, Full Bench Rulings, page 32.

There is a second objection, which is th Supposing the decrees of Kusseemoo and her sisters to have been obtained b Mr. Hill's purchase, these decrees and th cree of Golam Kadir against Kusseemoo were not *cross-decrees between the parties;* and therefore Section 20 doe in terms apply to the set-off of such de In making his purchase, Mr. Hill woul therefore, take it subject to any other ing right of Kusseemoonissa to set o decree obtained by herself jointly wit sisters; and we think that no subse consent of the sisters of Kusseemoonis set off their joint decree against the d of Golam Kadir against her can in any affect the rights of Mr. Hill, who w party to that arrangement. The 209th tion distinctly recognizes the rights, not of original decree-holders, but of holde decrees; and if we allow this set-off, we plainly be disregarding the rights acq by Mr. Hill under his purchase.

For these reasons, we think that the cree of the Lower Courts should be a ed with costs.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating C Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Ju*

Decree for maintenance—Execution—In ments—Sections 201 and 212, Act VIII., 1 Section 15, Act XXIII., 1861.

Case No. 413 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order pas by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, de the 5th August 1870, affirming an or of the Subordinate Judge of that Distri dated the 15th February 1870.

Peareenath Brohmo and another (Judgme debtors), *Appellants,*

versus

Juggessuree *alias* Rakhalee Dossee (Plaint iff), *Respondent.*

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aboo Doorga Doss Dutt for Appellants.

Baboos Mohendro Lall Seal and *Sham Lall Mitter* for Respondent.

ecree for maintenance to be paid at a certain rate month stands on the same footing as a decree order- ment by instalments, where the decree-holder pply for execution from time to time as the instal- fall due, and the Court may issue execution under ns 201 and 212, Act VIII. of 1859, and Section 15, XIII. of 1861.

rman, C. J.—THE point of law raised s special appeal is whether a decree aintenance at a certain rate, namely, s 8 per month, adjudged to be paid by fendant to the plaintiff, can be enforced ecution of the original decree to be time to time issued, if default is made e defendant in making payments as sti- d; or, whether the plaintiff is com- d to bring actions, from time to time, to e the order of the Court made by the e.

e think that a decree for maintenance paid at a certain rate per month stands ly on the same footing as a decree ing payment of a sum of money by in- ents. In the case of a decree ordering ent of a sum of money by instalments time to time, as the instalments fall due, decree-holder may apply for execution of e, showing the amount due, and whether ayment on account of such instalments een made, and on such application the , by virtue of the provisions of Sections d 212, Act VIII. of 1859, and Section ct XXIII. of 1861, may make an order execution should issue.

his disposes of the only real point in the , because the objection that the decree, h follows the terms of a solehnamah, is in accordance with the prayer of the nal plaint, is one which is not only hless in itself, but cannot be taken in ution of decree. It is quite plain that decree is in conformity with the terms of olehnamah. The solehnamah contains a vision that the plaintiff should get Rupees er month from the defendant, and that defendant should, from time to time, pay sum to the plaintiff; and the decree ers that the terms of the solehnamah in respect shall be carried into effect.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Ladies of position—Personal appearance at Court.

Case No. 452 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Dinagepore, dated the 17th September 1870.

Zohurutoollah Chowdhry and others (Petitioners), *Appellants,*

versus

Asalooddeen Chowdhry (Opposite Party), *Respondent.*

Baboo Annund Chunder Ghossal for Appellants.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Respondent.

Where a Mahomedan lady of position residing within the town in which a Court held its sitting was willing to admit the Court to an interview at her own residence, the Judge was held to have done wrong in insisting upon her personal appearance in Court.

Mitter, J.—THIS was an application for the cancellation of a certificate granted to one Asalooddeen under the provisions of Act XL. of 1858. The cancellation was asked for on the ground that the minor Kureemoonissa, who is one of the petitioners, had reached her majority.

We are of opinion that the evidence given by the petitioners in this case is quite sufficient to show that the age of Kureemoonissa is about 20 or 21. No reliable evidence has been given by Asalooddeen to rebut this evidence, and we see no reason whatever

to reject the testimony on oath of the mother of Kureemoonissa as well as of her brother, both of whom have been examined in this case. The Judge appears to have rejected the application simply on the ground that Kureemoonissa had refused to appear in open Court to be inspected, relying on her position as a lady of rank. We think that the Judge is quite wrong in insisting upon the personal appearance of Kureemoonissa in Court, it being admitted that she was a lady of position, and that she had offered to be inspected in her residence in the town. We think that, under such circumstances, the Judge ought to have proceeded in the manner indicated in the application of Kureemoonissa. But, be that as it may, we think the evidence produced on her side is quite sufficient to show that she is no longer a minor.

We, therefore, direct that the certificate summarily allowed to Asalooddeen should be cancelled, and a fresh certificate given to Kureemoonissa as guardian and manager of the property of her infant daughter, Malchetoonissa. The respondent Asalooddeen must pay the costs incurred by the appellant in the Court below and also in this Court, the costs of each Court being assessed at 2 gold mohurs.

Bayley, J.—I think the Judge has shown a want of discretion in refusing to see the lady at her house. The Judge himself states that the lady was "willing to admit the Court to an interview if it is conducted at her own residence," which was actually within the town. He could then, with full regard for the ends of justice, have allowed that indulgence to the lady without any inconvenience to the Court or to other parties in the suit. The Judge further says: "If the lady has no objection to unveil in one place, I do not see why any such should not extend to the precincts of the Court." Now, there is great difference between a lady of position appearing before a Commissioner in her own house, and her appearing before an European Officer presiding in a crowded Court of justice. There being nothing shown to make it necessary to enforce her appearance in *Court* instead of being inspected by a Commissioner at her lodging in the town, the case does not come within the precedents to which the Lower Appellate Court refers.

I concur in the order passed by Mr. Justice Mitter.

The 13th February 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G

Judges.

Appellate Court—Section 359, Code of Procedure.

Case No. 777 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pas the Judge of East Burdwan, dat 20th May 1870, reversing a decis the Moonsiff of Aosgaon, dated the November 1869.

Shurbessur Ghose (Plaintiff), *Appel*

versus

Sadhoo Churn Ghose and another (Def ants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter for Appe

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Madhub Sein* for Respondents.

Section 359, Code of Civil Procedure, makes it bent upon an Appellate Court to set down distin point or points on which it has to decide the app to record its reasons for the decision it arrives at and all of these points.

Glover, J.—The plaintiff in this cas to recover possession of his share in a cestral tank from the defendants Nos. and 3. The defendants Nos. 2 and 3 a uncles of the plaintiff, and the defenda 1 claims to be in possession of the pro in suit by purchase (from the plaintiff from the other two defendants jointly) on 26th Bysack 1268. To this it is allege the part of the plaintiff that, at the time deed of sale was executed, he was a m and that the defendants Nos. 2 and 3, his cles, had no authority to dispose of the p perty in his name, and that, as a matte fact, he never gave them such authority.

The Court of first instance held on evidence that the plaintiff was a minor the date on which the deed of sale is said have been executed, and was not in a posi to give authority to the defendants Nos and 3 to sell, and that the plaintiff did n give such authority.

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he Judge, on appeal, after remarking t the Moonsiff had failed to comprehend suit, decided that the kobalah propound- by the defendant was a genuine and *bond-* instrument; that it was supported by krar executed by the same parties, name- by the plaintiff and his two uncles in the 1272; and that, from the date of the lah, the defendant had been in quiet ession of the property purchased. The ge likewise found that the plaintiff had ely failed to establish the case he had up.

special appeal it is contended that it is udge who has misunderstood the points sue in this case; that the question was only whether the deed of sale under h the defendant claimed was a genuine but whether the plaintiff was, at the this deed was executed, a minor, and so pable of giving any authority to his un- to dispose of his share of the ancestral s. No doubt, the decision of the Judge t as clear as it might have been on this icular issue, and he has not borne in d the provisions of Section 359 of the Code ivil Procedure, which made it incumbent him to set down distinctly the point or s on which he had to decide the appeal, to record his reasons for the decision ar- d at by him on each and all of these points. he distinctly found that the plaintiff was jor on the date of the sale to the defend- that, coupled with his finding of fact that deed of sale was a genuine instrument, that, under that bill of sale, the defend- had been in peaceable possession ever , would at once have disposed of the without any possibility of doubt. But ough the decision is not as clear as it ht be, there are words to be found in the r part of the Judge's decision, which do tantially dispose of this plea of minority. Judge says: "The plaintiff has entirely ed to establish the case he has set up." w, the case set up by the plaintiff was un- tedly that this deed of sale could not d him, as it was executed when he was a minor, and by parties who had no ority from him to execute this docu- t, which purports to pass away the pro- y to the defendant. This being so, we see no object to be gained by remanding case to the Judge for a clearer finding that which he seems substantially to e found.

We, therefore, dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 5th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Execution—Sale—Bona fides—Collusion—Onus probandi—Section 359, Code of Civil Procedure.

Case No. 1410 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 23rd April 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 14th August 1869.

Tatur Khawas (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Loke Nath and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondents.

The fact of a purchaser at a sale in execution having bought in good faith does not make it immaterial to inquire into his vendor's title.

In a suit to set aside such a sale as colorable, false, and collusive, the proof lies with the plaintiff.

The terms of Section 359, Code of Civil Procedure, though not usually enforced with extreme rigour by the High Court, should be complied with by Appellate Courts where the facts of a case are complicated.

Jackson, J.—It appears to me that the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court in this case must be reversed, and that there must be a new trial.

The plaintiff brought his suit to set aside a judgment obtained by one of the defendants, impugning it and the mortgage-transaction on which it was based on the ground of fraud. The plaintiff also desired to have his right to 10 beegahs of land declared, and his possession therein confirmed, notwithstanding the decree and sale which had taken place under the circumstances first stated.

The Subordinate Judge who tried the suit considered the plaintiff to have made out his case, and gave him judgment. The case coming before the Additional Judge of Tirhoot on appeal, the Judge sets out at some length what he understands to be the facts of the case, interspersed here and there with a few words of comment. Having given what he calls a brief outline of the

case, he gives the following judgment: "I "am of opinion, after hearing the arguments "on both sides, that the Subordinate Judge "has arrived at a just decision on the sub-"ject, with which I see no reason whatever "to interfere. It is very clear that the "plaintiff (respondent) purchased the pro-"perty in good faith, in possession of which, "therefore, he should be retained. I place "no reliance on the transaction between the "appellant and the defendant No. 2, which "I look upon as wholly illegal and inadmis-"sible. It is proved that the property had "already been purchased by the plaintiff "(respondent); therefore a second purchase "by the appellant was impossible. The "orders of the Lower Court are confirmed, "and the appeal dismissed with costs."

Now, the Judge in this way appears to adopt wholesale the decision of the Court below, together with the reasons on which that decision was based. That is not the duty of the Appellate Court. Section 359, Act VIII. of 1859, states that the judgment of the Appellate Court shall contain the point or points for determination, the decision thereupon, and the reasons for decision. Now, in some cases, where the facts are extremely simple, and the point for determination is unmistakeable, we are not in the habit of requiring an extremely rigorous compliance with the terms of that Section; but where the facts of the case are at all complicated, the necessity for compliance with them is very obvious, as it is in the present case; for it seems to me that the Judge's language indicates an imperfect conception of what the case was which he had to decide. He says: "It is very clear that "the plaintiff (respondent) purchased the "property in good faith, in possession of "which, therefore, he should be retained." If that was so, the title which the vendor could make would be immaterial, so long as the purchaser bought in good faith. He again says: "I place no reliance on the trans-"action between the appellant and the de-"fendant No. 2, which I look upon as wholly "illegal and inadmissible." Now, it was not alleged that there was anything illegal or inadmissible, but that the transaction was colorable, fraudulent, and collusive. That was the issue which the Court had to try, and it was an issue, the proof of which lay upon the plaintiff, more especially as the defendant rested upon a judgment which he had obtained upon that transaction from a Court of competent jurisdiction. He again says: "It is proved that the property had "been already purchased by the pla "(respondent); therefore a second purc "by the appellant was impossible." It was not a question of purchases, but the fendant set up a previous lien, and a de obtained upon that lien.

The case will be replaced upon the the Lower Appellate Court. That C will carry out strictly the terms of Se 359, stating the points for decision in case, and giving his decision upon points consecutively.

Glover, J.—I concur.

The 5th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and F. A Glover, *Judges.*

Ferries—Section 2, Act I. of 1866.

Case No. 1423 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passe the Judge of Shahabad, dated the April 1870, affirming a decision of first Subordinate Judge of that Dis dated the 11th December 1869.

Dewan Ram Jewun Singh and anothe (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

The Collector and Magistrate of Shahab (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Taruck Nath Paleet for Appellan

Baboo Juggodanund Mookerjee for Respondent.

A suit to re-open a ferry which had been incl in a settlement of an estate obtained by plaintiff Government, but which had been closed by order the Assistant Magistrate, was held not to be main able, the ghât where plaintiff wished to re-open being within 2 miles of the place at which a p ferry was established.

Jackson, J.—THIS suit is described by Subordinate Judge as being a suit "for "opening the plaintiff's ferry ghât, as "old, at the Soane river at mouzah Mah "dema, Pergunnah Dammur in Shahaba

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by reversal of the orders of the Assistant Magistrate and Commissioner closing the said ghât," and also for damages.

The Subordinate Judge and the Zillah Judge in appeal have both held that this suit is not maintainable. The decision of the Zillah Judge is mainly based upon Section 2, Act I. of 1866 of the Bengal Code, which declares: "Every ferry which has been, or may be, declared to be a public ferry under the provisions of the said Regulation VI. of 1819 shall belong exclusively to Government, and no person shall, except with the sanction of the Magistrate of the district, keep a ferry-boat for the purpose of plying for hire within a distance of two miles above and below the place where such public ferry is established."

It appears that the ferry which the plaintiff desires to re-open was formerly a ferry belonging to the Government, and was included in a settlement which the plaintiff had obtained of a certain estate from the Government, but that another public ferry has since been opened under the direction of the Magistrate, which ferry, I understand it to be admitted, is within two miles of the place where the plaintiff now seeks to re-open his own ferry.

Without considering whether the terms of Section 2, Act I. of 1866, relate expressly to the plaintiff's case, it seems quite clear that the plaintiff desired the Court to do that which the Legislature declared it should not be allowed to do, that is to say, allow him to keep a ferry-boat for the purpose of plying for hire within a "distance of two "miles above and below the place where "such public ferry is established." That being so, I think the suit must necessarily fail.

Section 4 of the Act appears to provide for his applying for a compensation in respect of loss sustained by him in consequence of the action taken by the Magistrate under this Act. It appears that the plaintiff might, if he had chosen, have obtained such compensation. The Magistrate recommended it, and the Commissioner only refused to give it on the ground that no application had been made to him for it.

The special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

Glover, J.—I concur.

The 9th January 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Landlord and lessee—Holding over—Wassilat—Execution.

Case No. 108 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 12th March 1870.

Mr. M. H. Gale (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Maharanee Sreemutty and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. A. F. Lingham for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory and *Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Respondents.

When a lessee whose lease has expired, and who is unwilling to give the increased rent demanded by the landlord, retains possession in the hope of obtaining a new lease without such increase, parties entering upon the land as cultivators with the consent of the landlord are not called upon to show the ex-lessee their authority.

Where wassilat is decreed, the mode of ascertaining it is rightly reserved for the proceedings in execution.

Jackson, J.—We do not think it necessary to call upon the respondent in this case. It appears to us that the decision of the Court below is manifestly just and proper.

For the purpose of the decree which has been given, it does not appear to be necessary to put the case at all higher than it is put in the evidence of Mr. Lamb, the manager for the defendant himself. That witness has distinctly admitted that the defendant, whose lease of the land in dispute expired in the end of the year 1275 Fuslee, was negotiating for a renewal of the lease; that the landlord demanded an increased rent, which the defendant was unwilling to

give; and that, during those negotiations, and in the hopes of obtaining a new lease without increase of rent, he, at his own risk and peril, retained possession of the land, and refused to allow the parties, who, it is quite clear, had obtained the consent of the landlord to cultivate, to enter upon the land.

It is said that those persons who went for the purpose of cultivation did not exhibit their authority to the defendant. It seems to me that they were not called upon to exhibit any such authority; and the manager does not appear to be at all certain that, if they had exhibited their authority, he would have allowed them to cultivate. He says: "I do not think I should have objected to the ryots cultivating, if they had shown me the authority, nor complained against them." This is certainly a further gravamen in the matter, for it appears that not only did the defendant, by his manager, refuse to allow the persons sent by the landlord to cultivate, but he actually took criminal proceedings against them, and, by what seems to me a lamentable perversion of justice, actually procured them to be punished by the Magistrate for cultivating land which the landlord had authorized them to cultivate.

Then it is said that these criminal proceedings did not extend beyond the month of November, and, at any rate, the landlord was at liberty to enter upon the land then, and therefore could not be entitled to damages beyond that period.

It seems that the landlord had brought a suit in the Collector's Court to recover possession of the mouzah, and in that suit, which was decided on the 31st of March 1869, the defendant alleged that he was entitled to hold these lands by a cultivating right, and he, consequently, did not in any sense give up the lands, nor disclaim a right to them. Under these circumstances, it seems to me that the plaintiff certainly could not understand that she had recovered possession of her lands, and she was quite justified in acting as if she were kept out of possession, and in bringing this suit on the 1st October following.

It has been made ground of objection to the decision of the Subordinate Judge that he has not expressly laid down the principle on which damages were to be assessed, nor the period in respect of which the defendant was liable.

I admit that the decision of the Co[illegible] below might have been more explicit, u[illegible] the latter point at any rate; but it seem[illegible] me that in the decision of the second i[illegible] what the Court has done is really this: [illegible] finds that the plaintiff is entitled to rent[illegible] damages for the time she has been kept [illegible] of possession of these lands. That, I th[illegible] having reference to the pleadings, [illegible] mean the period between the expiry of [illegible] lease and the time alleged in the pl[illegible] namely, wassilat for the year 1276 Fu[illegible] The Court below probably did not mea[illegible] give more than that, and obviously [illegible] plaintiff would not be entitled to more [illegible] he actually claims in this suit. I th[illegible] therefore, it may be understood that [illegible] the plaintiff is entitled to recover is was[illegible] for the year 1276 Fuslee.

Then, as to the mode of assessment [illegible] ascertaining wassilat, the Court below [illegible] reserved that for the proceedings in ex[illegible] tion. This is the course taken every [illegible] and which the law allows to be taken, [illegible] I think no objection can be taken on [illegible] point.

I think the decision of the Court be[illegible] must be affirmed, and the appeal dismi[illegible] with costs.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 12th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ain[illegible]
Judges.

Certificate of administration—Hindoo fam[illegible] Separation.

Case No. 403 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order pa[illegible] by the Judge of Shahabad, dated the 2[illegible] July 1870.

Mussumat Munbasee Kooer and anoth[illegible] (Objectors), *Appellants,*

versus

Nowrungee Lall and another (Petitioners), *Respondents.*

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aboo Tarucknath Dutt for Appellants.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Respondents.

tain members (N and A) of a joint Hindoo family g commenced a suit to set aside an adoption by one family (C), a compromise was effected, by which veral parties took separate shares of the family-rty. C having died, N and A applied for a certi- to collect the debts due to his estate, but were ed in a joint-petition made by the widow and ed son.

n that the applicants could not be entitled to ificate, which might, however, be given to the th the consent of the widow.

kson, J.—It appears to me that the of the Judge below is erroneous.

e respondents before us applied for a cate to collect the debts due to the of the deceased Chundun Lall, alleg- hemselves to be his relations on the 's side, and as such his heirs; and upon the widow of Chundun Lall and Bissessur Doyal, alleged to be the adopt- n of Chundun Lall, made a joint-peti- opposing the application.

e Judge, having the parties before him, d that the alleged adopted son was a n who, as being the sister's son of the ased, could not lawfully be adopted by , and therefore considered that, as he not be the heir, and could not have the icate, the other parties must be entitled

ow, it appears that, in the lifetime of ndun Lall, a suit had been commenced the petitioners, Nowrungee Lall and nee Lall, to set aside the alleged adop- and for certain other purposes; and that terminated in a compromise, by which several parties to it took separate specific es of the family-property, and the suit e to an end; and from this it results the family, so far as the petitioners and ndun Lall are concerned, became se- e. That being so, and Chundun Lall g died leaving a widow, the petitioners nifestly could not be entitled to the ificate. The question would remain, refore, one between the widow and the ged adopted son; and if those two par- were arrayed on opposite sides before the ah Judge and before us, it might have been necessary to decide whether the petitioners were entitled to the certificate; but as that is not the case, and as the widow supports the claim of the adopted son, no inconvenience can arise in giving a certificate to the son, the widow consenting.

The question whether the Judge was right in holding, in the circumstances of this family, that the sister's son could not be adopted, is a question which admits of doubt. That question may arise hereafter, and, if so, will be decided at the proper time.

The order of the Lower Court must be reversed, and a certificate given to Bissessur Doyal with costs.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 12th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Admission—Evidence—Cross-appeal—Court's duty.

Case No. 1453 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 30th March 1870, reversing a decision of the Collector of Jungipore, dated the 30th November 1868.

Oomabuttee (one of the Plaintiffs), *Appellant,*

versus

Parushnath Pandey and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry for Respondents.

A statement made in a case by a pleader on behalf of his client after full consideration and consultation is admissible as evidence against that client in another case in which he is a party.

A plaintiff, who obtains a decree which is appealed against, is not bound to bring a cross-appeal, because the Court of first instance did not accept a portion of the evidence; but it is for the Appellate Court to examine such portion, and consider whether it proves plaintiff's case.

Jackson, J.—THE special appellant shows that two of the documents which he relied upon as evidence in support of his case have been improperly rejected by the Judge. One of these is the statement made on the part of Parushnath Pandey by his pleader in a suit by Gudadhur Mundul against him. In that case the pleader stated to the Court that the parties had come to an arrangement under which the defendant, admitting the justice of the plaintiff's claim, proposed to allow the claim to be satisfied out of profits of this very mouzah which it is alleged Parushnath Pandey held in ijarah. This statement made by the pleader on Parushnath's behalf is, we think, clearly admissible in evidence against him. It appears to have been made after full consideration and consultation between the clients and the pleaders on both sides.

Secondly, in respect of certain accounts prepared, it is said, under the directions and in the presence of Parushnath himself, the Judge observes that it was the business of the plaintiff to have preferred a cross-appeal, because the Court below had discredited those accounts, and for that reason he declared the finding to be final. Now, clearly the plaintiff, who had got a decree in the Court of first instance on other grounds, is not compelled to bring a cross-appeal, because the Court below has not accepted or relied upon any particular portion of the evidence; but when the whole case was before the Judge, it was for him to take such a view of the whole of the evidence adduced by the parties as he thought fit. It was his business to examine those accounts, and consider whether they proved the plaintiff's case.

Then as to the mokurruree pottah, the Judge states that he does not find on it the signature either of the plaintiff or defendant; but it is stated that, on inspection, it will appear that it was signed by the defendant.

As to this third piece of evidence, I am not clear that, standing alone, it would be ground of special appeal; but as clearly a new trial is requisite on account of the mistake of the Judge as regards the two first pieces of evidence, I think the Court below, in re-trying the case, should take the op tunity of re-considering the mokurruree tah, as well as the oral evidence as to the Judge had passed an opinion, which tainly seems not to be of a thoroughly factory kind. The case must go back Lower Appellate Court for a re-trial.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Justice*, and the Hon'ble Onookool C der Mookerjee, *Judge*.

Complaints—Sections 145 and 160, Act X 1859—Suits—Appeal.

Amanutoollah, agent on behalf of Nusse oonissa Begum, *Petitioner*,

versus

Russick Chunder Chatterjee and anot *Opposite Party*.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Petitioner.

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Op Party.

A complaint or proceeding under Section 145 of 1859, is not a suit within the meaning of Secti Clause 7, and does not fall within the descripti the suits in which, under Section 160, an appeal is to the Zillah Judge.

Norman, C. J.—THE facts of this are as follow:—

Nusseebutoonissa Begum attached, the provisions of Sections 112 and 115 Act X. of 1859, certain crops standing the lands of a tenure within her *ayma* belonging to her under-tenant Kader B Mundal.

Russick Chunder Chatterjee and Jo Shaha removed the attached crops, on w Nusseebutoonissa preferred a complaint fore the Collector of Howrah under S

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145 of Act X., alleging that these per- had illegally and forcibly removed the ained property.

n the investigation of the complaint, the ty Collector, to whom the case was e over by the Collector, found that the of the crops which had been impro- received by Russick Chunder Chatter- nd Jogul Shaha was Rupees 688-6. He red them to make good that amount, each of them to pay a fine of Rupees 25; in default each to be imprisoned in the jail for fifteen days.

om that decision Russick Chunder ap- d to the Judge, who, having entertained ppeal, held that the amount of damages not proved; and he reversed the order e Deputy Collector so far as it award- mages.

the 27th April last, an application was to myself and Mr. Justice Mitter aside the order of the Judge, on the nd that he had no jurisdiction to enter- an appeal from the order of the Collect- nd that his order made on appeal set- aside the Collector's order was an order without jurisdiction.

e matter, after standing over for a long has now come before us for argument. o Romesh Chunder Mitter has appeared pport of the rule, and he shows that a plaint under Section 145 is not a *suit*. ainly, it is not a suit within the mean- f the 7th Clause of the 23rd Section. a complaint against a person who has fully carried off crops which were un- straint. It is not a suit "arising out e exercise of the power of distraint, t of any act done under color of such r." Baboo Romesh Chunder pointed that the procedure in *suits* under Act X. eated of in the Sections from 34 on- ds; and the procedure in the case of a plaint under Section 145 is in no way ogous to a civil suit before the Collect- that none of the steps prescribed for conduct of suits in Section 34 and the wing Sections are to be taken upon a plaint under Section 145. He showed under Section 145, the person against m the complaint is made is not summon- as in a civil suit, but is *arrested;* he is treated as a defendant, but as an *of der;* he his not treated as a person against m a decree passes, but he is convicted: the judgment against him is not a *decree* a sentence of fine or imprisonment.

Baboo Romesh Chunder showed by a careful examination of the Sections of Act X. relating to suits arising out of the exercise of the power of distress that the proceeding under Section 145 was not one of such suits; and we think that he is right in saying that a proceeding under Section 145 is not a suit, and that it does not, therefore, fall within the description of the suits in which, under Section 160, an appeal is given to the Zillah Judge.

I may observe that the Collector's Court is a Revenue Court—the Court of the Zillah Judge is a Civil Court; and unless there is some express power which gives an appeal from proceedings in the Revenue Court to the Judge in the same Court, no appeal lies.

We think it quite clear that no appeal lies in the present case; that the order of the Judge quashing that of the Deputy Collector was made without jurisdiction, and is illegal. Therefore, under the provisions of Section 15 of the Charter Act XXIV. and XXV. Victoria, Chapter 104, we direct that that order of the Judge be quashed.

We express no opinion as to whether the Collector had any jurisdiction to award damages to the complainant under Section 145.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 31st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Sale for arrears—Failure to give notice—Section 33, Act XI. of 1859.

Case No. 100 of 1869.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 22nd December 1868.

Mohabeer Pershad Singh and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

The Collector of Tirhoot and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Messrs. J. Graham and *C. Gregory* for Appellants.

The Advocate-General and *Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee* and *Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Respondents.

To sell an estate for arrears under Act XI. of 1859, after lulling the proprietor into a false security by failure to give him a notice which the law prescribes as a condition precedent of a sale, is of itself a very material injury irrespective of the amount of purchase-money realized, and one amply sufficient to warrant a Court in annulling the sale under Section 33.

Ainslie, J.—THIS appeal was, on a former occasion, heard by Mr. Justice Bayley and Mr. Justice Markby, who, on the 3rd May 1870,* made the following order :—

"We think, therefore, that the judgment "of the Lower Court must be reversed, and "the case remanded under Section 354, "Act VIII. of 1859, to try the issue whe-"ther or not the plaintiffs have sustained a "substantial injury by reason of the irregu-"larity which we find existing in this case, "that is to say, that no notice was issued "as required by Section 5, Act XI. of "1859.

"Each party will be allowed to produce "fresh evidence upon this issue; and having "found and determined this issue, the "Court below is to return its finding and "the evidence to this Court within two "months of the receipt of this order."

The Lower Court has submitted a finding, which is by no means clearly expressed, but may be taken to be that the sale by the Collector of the property in suit was effected at a very inadequate price, and that this lowness of price was the consequence of an irregularity in the Collector's proceedings, such irregularity being the one noticed in the order of this Court.

The respondent has taken exception to this finding.

* 13 W. R., p. 423.

The questions before us now are—

1st.—Whether, on the evidence, the pl iff has established that he has sust substantial injury, and

2nd.—Whether such injury has been tained by reason of the irregularity plained of.

The property in suit was sold at au by the Collector to the defendant, Bun Lall Sahoo, for the sum of Rupees 1,40,

The plaintiffs, on the remand, exa several witnesses, amongst whom were M. Lloyd and Mr. T. Lloyd. Both gentlemen state that Talookas M Alipore and Sonapore are worth four la rupees, and Mr. M. Lloyd assigns th the four lakhs as the value of Mullick Al Baboo Muddun Lall states that this tal worth more than four lakhs of rupees; Ram Bhurosa Singh puts it at three l The plaintiffs have also produced vi accounts to support their case. It has said that Mr. M. Lloyd's evidence is hearsay, or, where he speaks as of his knowledge, merely the result of calcul from the annual profits, the amount of he had previously stated from inform derived from others. But I do not his evidence is to be treated as pure hea but rather as an expression of his own b formed on the data available to him. an opinion may be more or less valu according to the character and positio the witness. The learned Advocate-G eral has admitted that the character of witness is unimpeachable; and as to position, it appears that he is an indigo-pl er occupying lands within this very est and consequently in a position to form correct estimate of its value. I think ought to attach considerable weight to evidence.

h

The evidence for the plaintiff is very fee- met by evidence on the other side. The ondents rely mainly on the statements the petition presented to the Civil Court the plaintiffs, when they sought to save r property from sale by getting a man- r appointed under Section 243, Act VIII. 859. This petition, dated 5th September 4, sets forth the income of the properties er attachment in the execution-suit, and n it the respondents derive by calculation ross annual profit of about Rupees 5,600.

ut the statements made in that petition 864 do not necessarily determine the e of the property in 1867. It has been ted out that in 1866 the manager ap- ed by the Civil Court believed that ould renew expiring leases on better s; also that, on the very same day on h the property in suit was sold, another e of 3 annas 4 gundahs in mouzah daspore, one of the villages in the k, was purchased by the defendant waree Lall Sahoo for Rupees 29,200; that at another time a 2-gundahs share nother village in the talook Bazeedpore purchased by the witness Bhugeloo for ees 995 (or at the least for Rupees 800, lleged in the pre-emption suit that fol- d his purchase), and that at these rates price of the shares for which plaintiffs in these two villages, leaving out of ac- nt all the rest of the property, would come t least 1,54,600 rupees.

has also been observed that defendant elf filed jummabundees in the Collector's in December 1868, showing the in- e of his share in three villages, Hurdas- e, Sursawa, and Jebangeera to be 9,054 ees.

The evidence of defendant's witness Roop ain has also been commented on. This n values his own share in the talook, oducing an annual profit of 25 or 30 ees, at Rupees 5,000. But although he eves plaintiff's profits to be about 3,000, only puts the value down as 1½ lakhs and wards.

Looking at the whole of the evidence, I e no hesitation in coming to the conclu- n that the estate was sold far below its per value, which appears to be about 3 khs of rupees.

In coming to this conclusion, I have not verlooked the provisions of Section 35, Act II. of 1859, which, it is urged, afford to a purchaser at a sale under the Act such ample protection that the risk of the sale being set aside would not materially influence his biddings. The Section, however, offers no protection in respect of costs of litigation and claims for mesne-profits, both of which (especially the latter) are formidable items to be taken into account.

Then comes the question whether the injury sustained by the plaintiffs was by reason of the irregularity complained of. It is contended for the respondents that the injury must be directly caused by the irregularity. Appellants, on the other hand, deny that this is necessary. The true construction of Section 33, Act XI. of 1859, according to them, is that, when no material injury has been sustained, the law does not notice errors of form; but when material injury is proved, it is essential to the validity of a sale that every step of procedure should be strictly in form, and that any and every irregularity is fatal.

I do not feel myself called on to express any opinion whether the simple fact of the existence of some irregularity, combined with a sale at a price materially below full value, is sufficient, under the terms of Section 33, Act XI of 1859, to invalidate a sale, although there may be no evidence to connect the inadequate price directly with the irregularity as effect and cause; for in this suit, there is evidence that the report (which turns out to be well-founded in fact), that the proceedings of the Collector had been informal, did operate to make intending purchasers unwilling to bid. It has been contended by the learned Advocate-General that the evidence does not establish that the particular irregularity under Section 5, Act XI. of 1859, which occurred in this instance, was the irregularity which deterred bidders; and that the mere suggestion of some undefined irregularity, even if it had the effect of making intending purchasers hold back, is not sufficient to invalidate the sale. But looking to the evidence of Ram Bhurosa Singh, I think that there can be no doubt that the irregularity, which was the subject of remark at the time of sale, was the special irregularity under Section 5; and that there is, therefore, no ground for saying that the requirements of Section 33, read most strictly, have not been complied with.

Moreover, independently of the evidence recorded in this case, I think the plaintiff's suit may be supported from a consideration of the admitted facts. The property being

under attachment by order of a Civil Court, the Collector was bound to give the parties interested therein warning of the impending liability to sale by the issue of the notices prescribed in Section 5, Act XI. of 1859. This Section does not extend the time allowed for payment of arrears of estates attached by any judicial authority, but it provides that certain steps shall be taken at least 15 clear days before the latest date for payment of arrears, fixed according to Section 3 of the Act, to call attention to the existence of arrears and the near approach of the time when the estate will be liable to sale. Clearly the object of the law is to give a special warning to parties who have lost the control of their own estates owing to attachments by judicial authority, and probably also to the attaching Courts and managers, that they may make such arrangements as the circumstances of the case require to protect the estates against defaults which very often would be (as in this instance) defaults of co-sharers.

When the law says that a certain party's estate shall not be sold for arrears without public notice of the existence of the arrear, the non-issue of notice would naturally induce a belief that the estate is in no danger. A man who lives 50 miles from the Collector's treasury and 1 mile from the Moonsiff's Court may not think it worth while to go all the way to the former, when he knows that he can, in the ordinary course of business, ascertain at the latter whether there is any danger to his estate; and if, when the proper time comes, he makes inquiries at the Moonsiff's Court, and ascertains that no notice has come from the Collector, surely he may rest at home in peace and take it for granted that the manager of the attached share or some co-sharer has made the estate safe, and that there is no arrear due. To sell a man's estate for arrears after lulling him into a false sense of security, by failure to give him a notice which the law prescribes as a condition precedent of a sale, is an injury of itself, wholly irrespective of the amount of purchase-money, and, in my opinion, a very material injury and one amply sufficient to warrant a Court in annulling a sale under Section 33, Act XI., 1859; that such an injury flows directly from the irregularity will hardly be denied.

It certainly is not shown in this case that the plaintiff was actually misled by the want of the proper notices under Section 5. But I think one is justified in inferring everything in his favor, when we find that a fo prescribed as absolutely essential, and w out which no sale shall be held (in special cases noted in Section 5), has b neglected: especially as it is shown t shortly after the estate had been decl liable to sale, the arrear was tendered to Collector, who unfortunately refused to e cise the discretion vested in him by Sec 18 of the Act.

Consequently, looking either to the na of the case or to the evidence on the rec I think the plaintiff is entitled to have sale set aside.

In my opinion, there must be a decree the plaintiffs annulling the sale, and dec ing their right to be put into possession their shares of the talook, as set forth in plaint, subject to the provisions of Act of 1859, with costs in proportion to established value of the property in s *viz.*, Rupees 3,00,000, payable by Bunw Lall.

As this litigation has arisen entirely of the error of the Collector in forcing the sale, after the omission to issue notif tions under Section 5 had been brought his notice, there should be no order for t recovery of the stamp-duties under Secti 309, Act VIII. of 1859.

Jackson, J.—I concur generally in th judgment, and I express no decided opini on the point raised by Mr. Graham, name that it is not requisite to connect the inju to the plaintiff with the precise *irregular* established, the evidence in this case bein sufficient to entitle the plaintiff to a verdic even if this necessity be conceded.

The 7th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley, *Judge.*

XI. of 1859—Sale-certificate—Separate proprietorship — Commissioner's order — Legal rights.

Case No. 114 of 1870.

*plication for review of judgment passed by the Hon'ble Justices H. V. Bayley and W. Markby, on the 1st June 1870, in Special Appeal No. 2927 of 1869.**

am Gobind Roy (Plaintiff), *Petitioner,*

versus

ud Kushuffudoza and another (Defendants), *Opposite Party.*

. J. W. B. Money and *Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter* for Petitioner.

boo Ashootosh Dhur for Opposite Party.

hatever is sold under Act XI. of 1859 can only be for arrears of Government revenue; and unless such ars can be shown to have been due, any sale under law will be void, inoperative, and without legal t, and the title supposed to be given by the sale-ficate will be subject to such defect.

e order of a Commissioner requiring proprietors g separate jummas to pay, for the convenience of Collector, their shares of revenue through one of r number, cannot override their legal right of sepa- proprietorship allowed under the settlement-law and rved by express record, or transform such right a joint tenancy.

Commissioner's amulnamah cannot destroy legal s, even if no protest or objection be made.

Bayley, J.—THIS is an application for iew upon the following grounds:—

1stly.—When the entire estate of Bahaorpore was hypothecated to Government r its revenue and liable to sale for its ears, the petitioner, as purchaser at a sale such arrears, is entitled to the possession the entire estate by ejecting every per- who may refuse to vacate the same, less his holding is protected under any of provisions of Act XI. of 1859; and as the ssession of the defendants is not so pro- cted, petitioner is entitled to eject them.

2ndly.—That when the defendants were co-proprietors with Akburoonissa of the estate Bahadoorpore, and equally liable with her for its revenue, the purchase of the same by the petitioner at a sale for non-payment of revenue has conveyed to him the rights of all the proprietors equally.

3rdly.—That the provisions of Clause 8, Section 10, Regulation VII. of 1822, do not apply to the circumstances of the present case. Even if it be supposed, for argument's sake, to be so applicable, it did not save the holdings of the defendants from sale, as it was specially provided in the amulnamah that, on default of revenue, the same should be sold.

The main passages of my judgment of which this review is sought are these: "The lakherajdar is not only a proprietor "of land, though paying in this case "through another, but actually recorded "here to have all his rights as such reserved, "though Government revenue for conve- "nience (to Government) is paid by Ak- "buroonissa as the largest proprietor.

"Again, the possession of the defendants "as lakherajdars, though paying revenue "through Akburoonissa, is one that could "not be disturbed by the plaintiff so long "as defendants pay the revenue assessed "upon them *under the settlement*, and there "recorded." And further on: "This, in "fact, is a case simply of Badshahee grants "of one large and a number of small rent- "free *proprietors*, who never had, or pre- "tended to have, Puteedaree or Byacharee "rights. Akburoonissa was one proprietor, "and defendants are others. The mode of "paying revenue cannot make that man not "a proprietor who is recorded in a settle- "ment-record as a proprietor, and he can "only cease to be such when he does not "pay the revenue assessed by that settle- "ment. In this case defendants do pay the "revenue, or at least it is not shown they "did not. They cannot lose their propriet- "tary rights, so secured and expressly re- "served, because Akburoonissa defaulted. "To rule otherwise would render the re- "servation of proprietor's right in a settle- "ment-record a nullity."

The *first* of these grounds is precisely the same as was urged before us by the pleader who appeared in the original special appeal. The learned Counsel, Mr. Money, who *now* appears for the *first time*, merely amplifies the arguments that were addressed

* 14 W. R., p. 1.

to us by invoking the terms of Sections 28 and 37, Act XI. of 1859, that is to say, by urging that, as the sale-certificate describes the mehal as an area of 520 beegahs with a jumma of 508 rupees, nothing less than the whole mehal could pass to the applicant.

But we are not to read the sale-certificate by itself. That is a deed certifying that a certain person is the purchaser of a certain mehal sold under Act XI. of 1859. Now, the purview of the law and the terms of the sale-notification clearly show that whatever is sold can only be sold under that law for arrears of Government revenue; and unless it can be shown that arrears of Government revenue are due on account of the estates of the opposite party, any sale would be void, inoperative, and without any legal effect, and in fact no sale; and consequently the title supposed to be given by the sale-certificate must always be subject to such defect, and would not be an absolute title as against the law by which alone the sale and certificate can be operated.

This leads to the consideration of the *second* plea, which again is a repetition of the argument of Baboo Unnoda Pershad, that the 53 lakherajdars were *co-sharers* of Akburoonissa. Now, the revenue-laws *require* that all *co-sharers* shall hold in co-tenancy under one and under the same right, and on one and the same record of that joint right, and as *co-proprietors* of one and the same number of the mehal. But, as observed in our original judgment, there was no such *co-proprietorship* in the present case and no such record of joint tenancy. On the contrary, each of the 53 lakherajdars is allowed separately that 50 per cent. malikana given only in recognition of the proprietary rights of each, and in addition to that, there is a most carefully recorded provision in the words "*malikee sutto bajaye rakhia*"—that each of the proprietor's rights in *their former position* are hereby preserved or secured. Now, there is no question that the former position was that of separate proprietors without any co-parceny whatever with Akburoonissa.

In the face, then, of this separate record of each proprietor's rights in the former state of such rights being reserved and secured, to say that they are joint rights, and there is no separate reservation, appears to me to be a contradiction in terms. It is true, as argued before us by the learned Counsel, Mr. Money, that the Commissioner's order was to the effect that these 53 parties ha separate jummas should pay, for the co nience of the Collector, their shares of t nue through Akburoonissa. Such an a nistrative order, however, cannot overr legal right of separate proprietorship all under the settlement-law and carefully served by an express record of the same, transform such right into a joint tenancy.

In short, I think, these 53 parties are gally separate proprietors, and there is such co-parcenary or joint liability attac to them by the Sale Law, Act XI. of 185 any other law, on account of Akburoon personal default; and that, therefore, property will not pass to the applicant.

It is said that there is no evidence to that those parties did not default, that say, that they paid their quota of rev through Akburoonissa as they were ord to do, and that therefore their estates passed under Akburoonissa's default. is for those who sell and for those who chase, making the averment of a joint ten to show that the sale is legal, that is, under Act XI. of 1859 on account of ar of revenue due from estates paying rev to Government. It is, therefore, not for parties recorded in the settlement as *rate proprietors* to show that they are joint or in default; and it is admitted the applicant cannot show by any evid on the record that the 53 separate pro tors defaulted to pay to Akburoonissa.

I, therefore, overrule both the a pleas.

It is then urged that the opposite p should have protested and taken action u Section 11 of Act X. of 1859 to protect interests. But I think that the settle and Regulations VII. of 1822 and IX. of protected their interests by treating the separate proprietors, and the record of settlement did the same.

Under such circumstances, it is not them to protest, but those who infringe legal rights of such separate proprie must take the consequences. Thus, I a Commissioner's amulnamah cannot de legal rights, even if no protest or objec be made. It requires express consent proof of default to give legal effect to a sale as this.

As to the *third* plea in reference to B charee or Puteedaree rights, my judgme

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in consonance with the views of the ned Counsel. I may add that, although Justice Markby took a somewhat differ- view on this point, his decision against pplicant did not rest on that Section.

his application for review is rejected costs.

The 7th February 1871.

Present :

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

lt—Review—Rehearing—Special Appeal —Pleader's neglect—Client's remedy.

Case No. 1681 of 1871.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by the dge of Shahabad, dated the 5th May 70, affirming a decision of the first Sub- dinate Judge of that District, dated the h December 1869.

deo Misser and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Ahmed Hossein (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

ere an appellant is refused postponement, and his is dismissed in his absence, the case must be upon as one of default, even though the Judge into the facts with such light as he could obtain other sources.

appellant in such a case might apply for a re- g or for a review of judgment, but is not entitled pecial appeal.

ble.—Where a pleader who has signed the memo- m of appeal refuses to argue the case on the ground g unable and unprepared, he is liable to be eitner with by the Court for neglect of duty or sued by ent for neglect of his interests.

ackson, J.—THE special appellant before was the appellant in the Zillah Court; his appeal being called on for hearing, as found that one of his pleaders was ent from illness, and the other who was ent in Court refused to proceed with the e. The appellant, it seems, had put in petition asking for a postponement of the peal, with which prayer the Judge did not nk fit to comply, and therefore took up the case, and dismissed the appeal. But before doing so, he looked into the facts of the case with such light as he could obtain from other sources, and came to the conclusion that the appeal was not a valid one, and he recites this fact in the judgment. But, notwithstanding this, the appeal must be looked upon as having been dealt with on default.

Under the circumstances, the special appellant might have come before the Lower Appellate Court, and asked either for a rehearing of the appeal or for a review of judgment, but we do not think he is entitled to come before us in special appeal.

It is stated that the pleader who refused to argue this case on the ground of being unable and unprepared is the same person who signed the memorandum of appeal, and who, therefore, presumably advised the bringing of the appeal. If that be so, it appears to us that he has failed in his duty, and that he is liable to be either dealt with by the Court for neglect of his duty as a pleader, or sued by the client for neglect of his interests.

We throw out this observation, not deciding anything on the point, but merely as a warning to pleaders that they cannot with impunity neglect their duty, and as a suggestion to parties of the remedy which they have in the case of pleaders who so neglect their duty.

The appeal will be dismissed with costs.

The 7th February 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

High Court—Privy Council.

Case No 1698 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Shahabad, dated the 19th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 18th February 1869.

Banee Pershad and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Radha Pershad Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

Where the decision of a Lower Court follows a view of the law taken by the High Court, and that view is set aside by a ruling of Her Majesty in Council, the judgment-debtor has a right to have his case re-tried upon that ruling.

Jackson, J.—THE decision of the Lower Court in this case was given implicitly following the judgment of the High Court in a similar case which had come before that Court in appeal; and it is now admitted that, since the decision of the High Court, the law upon the subject has received an authoritative exposition from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which is at variance with the view which had been taken for some years by this Court.

The defendant, in our opinion, is entitled to have his case considered upon the ruling arrived at by the Judicial Committee; and the decision of the Court below must, therefore, be set aside, and the case must go back for re-trial.

The 8th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Damages—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1705 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 1st June 1870, reversing a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 26th February 1871.

Gour Surun Doss and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Mr. W. Scrondey (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Appellants.

The Advocate-General for Respondent.

A party holding a decree for a share of a mouzah brought a suit for possession and damages on the allegation that he found the defendant in occupation of a part of the land on which indigo-plants were standing, permitted him to continue for a time when the would be removed, defendant promising then to over possession, but that, when the time came, defe refused to give over possession, and was still occu the land.

HELD that it lay upon the plaintiff to show wr occupancy on the part of the defendant.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff in this recently recovered a decree for a 4-a share of mouzah Titra Bishenpore. seems that the party against whom he tained this decree had let out the land the mouzah in ticca to the present def ant, Mr. Scrondey, and this suit is bro against Mr. Scrondey on the allegation at the time of plaintiff being put into session of his 4-annas share of the mo he found the defendant in occupatio certain of the lands, amounting to 12 bee or thereabouts, on which indigo-plant then standing; and that the defendant ob ed the plaintiff's leave to continue in oc tion of the ground only for a certain when the indigo-plant would be rem and promised then to give over posse and that he refused to give over posse at the time named, and is still continui occupy the land, whereby the plaintiff been endamaged.

The Court of first instance, that o Subordinate Judge, found in plaintiff's f as to the agreement between the pa alleged by the plaintiff, and also as to defendant's failure to carry out that a ment. Therefore the Subordinate Judge plaintiff a decree for possession of his and further ordered that he should rec from the defendant the rent that would been payable on account of these being of opinion that the plaintiff had f to prove that he would have been entitle occupy the land in question as *zeraat*, that the lands were, in fact, *ryotee* lands.

Against this decree the defendant pealed to the Zillah Judge. The Z Judge, in fact, seems to have found that was no such agreement or promise as all by the plaintiff; and, as I understand though the wording of the judgment is clear, he also found that the wrongful cupancy of the land by the defendant not made out. He, therefore, ordered decree of the Lower Court to be rever and the plaintiff's suit to be dismissed *toto*.

It has been contended before us in spec appeal by the plaintiff, in the first place, th

he circumstances, so far as they are ad-
ed, it lay upon the defendant to prove
he had given up possession of the plaint-
land. It was then argued that there
been a defect of investigation, the
ence having been improperly dealt with
he Lower Appellate Court; and we were
d either to remand the case for a new
between the same parties, or to allow
plaint to be amended by adding as de-
ants the ryots in occupation of the
nd.

appears to me that we are not at liberty
mply with any of these prayers. I
it is quite clear that, when the plaint-
ed the defendant for damages by
of his wrongful occupancy of the
iff's land, it lay upon the plaintiff to
that such occupation had taken place,
think it is quite certain that, upon
ding of the Zillah Judge, we must
t that the plaintiff failed.

e shape which the plaintiff seems to
given his case was to set up a distinct
definite promise by the defendant to
up the land at a certain time and the
delivery thereof at that time; and this,
e no doubt, would partly meet the dif-
y in the plaintiff's way, for if it could
own that the defendant had been allow-
a matter of indulgence and permission,
e plaintiff to remain on the land up to
tain time, and that the occupancy of
nd had continued as before at the ex-
on of that time, the Court would have
a considerable way on the road to find-
at a wrongful possession had, in fact,
ued. But the Zillah Judge expressly
ves any such assumption. He finds
the defendant did not bind himself to
an agreement and to such a promise.

have had considerable difficulty in un-
nding throughout the argument why
iff brought this action, instead of an
n of ejectment, against the defendant,
y he did not sue the ryots who were
ying the lands; and the solution of
question appears to be undoubtedly this
t the plaintiff desired to obtain from the
dant damages on the basis of the actual
rn or profits of the land. Both Courts
found that he was not entitled to it.
nk, therefore, that the plaintiff's suit was
perly dismissed.

With advertence to the observation made
Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry, who
lowed Mr. Allan on behalf of the special
appellant, I think it right to observe that that portion of the Judge's decree which directs a memorandum to be sent to the Registrar of Assurances must, of course, not be taken as disaffirming the plaintiff's title to the land as owner. I think that, if that observation remains on the record, no injury can arise to him, and no reason can exist why the appeal should not be absolutely dismissed. It is accordingly dismissed with costs.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Issues—Ex-parte trial—Sections 111 and 139, Code of Civil Procedure.

Case No. 1715 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 2nd July 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Cox Bazaar, dated the 12th December 1868.

Ameer Ali Sowdagur and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Imamooddeen and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Appellants.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Respondents.

Issues are to be fixed under Section 138, Code of Civil Procedure, when both parties appear, and the Court can ascertain from them what are the points upon which they are at issue. The Court is not bound to fix any issue when the defendant does not appear, but ought to proceed under Section 111 to hear the case *ex parte.*

Jackson, J.—THIS was a suit in which the plaintiff claimed possession of 5 gundahs of land with wassilat, alleging that he held this land under an *itmamee* title, and that the defendants Nos. 1 and 2 had wrongfully dispossessed him from the beginning of the year 1224. The plaintiff nowhere stated in his plaint what *itmamee* title he alluded to. The defendants did not appear, and upon their non-appearance the Moonsiff should have acted under Section 111 of the Civil Procedure Code, and proceeded to hear the

case *ex parte*, that is, call upon the plaintiff to prove his case. The Moonsiff, however, instead of doing that, fixed an issue as to the amount of wassilat, and sent an Ameen to make an inquiry about it. The Ameen made his report; and when the case came up for trial before the Moonsiff, he was not satisfied that the plaintiff had proved his title, and he accordingly dismissed the plaintiff's suit.

The plaintiff then appealed to the Judge. The ground of appeal to the Judge was that he had offered to give further evidence before the Moonsiff, but the Moonsiff had refused to take it. In this petition of appeal, also, the plaintiff nowhere alludes to the *itmamee* title under which he claims the land. Upon the record before the Moonsiff there appears to have been nothing whatever to show that the plaintiff did offer to produce any further evidence, or that the Moonsiff refused to take further evidence. On the contrary, even before the Appellate Court, the appellant's vakeel could not inform the Judge that any document existed to prove the plaintiff's right. The Judge held, under those circumstances, that there was nothing whatever to prove that the defendants were trespassers. And what is more remarkable as regards this title-deed is, that the Lower Court has distinctly stated that before him it was not alleged that any documentary title existed. Before the Judge again the same fact is stated, that the plaintiff's vakeel was not aware that any documentary title of the plaintiff existed.

On special appeal to this Court, it is said that the plaintiff has been prejudiced by the fact that the Moonsiff fixed no issue on the question of title. It seems to me that the Moonsiff was not bound to fix any issue at all in this case. Issues are to be fixed under Section 139 of the Procedure Code when both parties appear; and when the Court, after inquiry from them, can ascertain what are the points upon which the parties are at issue, then the Court shall proceed to record the issues. But when the defendant does not appear, it is impossible to ascertain what are the points upon which the parties are at issue.

We are now told that the plaintiff's *itmamee* title under which he claimed was one which was already in contest between the same parties in another suit, and upon which the plaintiff has since obtained a decree. If this is the real case, it is most extraordinary that that fact was not mentio either in the plaint or in the course of of the proceedings in the first Court, o the petition of appeal to the Judge o any of the proceedings before the J It looks very much as if the plaintiff been lying by to ascertain what was result of that other suit, and waiting to forward what title he pleased accordi the result of that suit. It has turned that he gained his suit in that case, therefore he now relies upon that *it* title; but had he lost that suit in the Appellate Courts, there is nothing to that he would have relied upon that According to his own case, this is a stale claim: he admits that for 6 or 7 the defendants have been in possessio gives no explanation as to how they got session. This suit has been pending f years and a half. It does not seem, fore, to be a suit in which any indul ought to be shown to the plaintiff. W asked to give him a re-trial of the c payment of all costs. But we think th defendants should not be harassed b further proceedings. Both the Courts quite right in holding that there w evidence of the plaintiff's *itmamee* title, they were, therefore, quite right in dism the plaintiff's suit.

We dismiss the appeal with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onooko Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Mahomedan Law—Will—Consent of hei

Case No. 1720 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Additional Judge of Ch gong, dated the 22nd June 1870, rever a decision of the Subordinate Judge of District, dated the 5th July 1869.

Nusrut Ali and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Zeinunnissa (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

h

Baboo Bhugobutty Churn Ghose for Appellants.

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Respondent.

Mahomedan Law, the consent given by heirs to a ...'s will before his death is no assent at all: to be ... it must be given after the testator's death.

...kson, *J.*—We think that the decision ... Additional Judge of Chittagong in this ... must be set aside, and the case must be ...ded to him for a fresh decision. The ...iff brought this suit to recover posses... of certain property, which she alleged ...s entitled to, partly as the heir of her ..., who was one of the heirs of Ali ...in, and partly under a gift from her ... another portion of the share inherit... her mother from the same Ali Hossein. ...ars that the defendants had set up a ... Ali Hossein, under which it was ... that he had made a bequest of the ... of his property to certain religious ...es. The plaintiff is entitled to succeed ... this will is not genuine, or if it is in... On the other hand, if the will is ...e and a valid will, the plaintiff's suit ...be dismissed.

... first Court found that the will was ...e, and that it was made with the ... of the testator's heirs; and it also ... that there was no sufficient evidence ... gift to the plaintiff by the plaintiff's ... It accordingly dismissed the plaint... suit with the exception of certain move... property.

... plaintiff thereupon appealed to the ...ional Judge. He gives no distinct ...on as to whether the will was really ex...d. But he finds that, inasmuch as the ... of the testator did not assent to the will ...re the testator's death, the will is invalid, ... though there is some evidence to show ... the wife had assented to it subsequent ...e testator's death. He holds that such ...equent assent is not sufficient to valid... the will. The Judge is wrong on this point ...r. Baillie, in his book on Mahomedan ... page 614, points out that "a bequest ... a stranger is valid without the consent ... the heirs, but not beyond a third of the ...te, unless assented to by them *after* ... testator's death." He then goes on to ... in the next sentence, alluding to this per...ion by the heirs, and alluding to a be...t to an heir and to a stranger, that, "if ...ermitted by them, it is lawful; and if not ...ermitted by them, it is void, no regard "being had to a permission granted in the "lifetime of the testator, so that they may "afterwards retract."

The Hedaya also in page 470, Book 52, Chapter I., says that, "where a person makes "a will in favor of part of his heirs, the "same rule holds as in the case of bequeathing "more than a third to a stranger; in other "words, the deed is not valid, unless the "other heirs give their consent to the dis-"position after the death of the testator; "and their consent *previous* to his death "will have no effect."

The Judge is, therefore, wrong in finding against the validity of the will only on the ground that the consent was given after the death of the testator, because any assent given to the will before his death would be, in fact, no assent at all. The assent, in order to be valid assent, must be one given after the testator's death.

The case must, therefore, go back to the Judge for a fresh decision on the question as to how far the will is genuine and valid.

Costs of this appeal will form costs of the cause.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Widowed daughter—Reversioner.

Case No. 1790 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 2nd June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 17th January 1870.

Pooran Chunder Nundee and another (two of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Sreeshteedhur Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Ashootosh Dhur and *Tarucknath Sein* for Appellants.

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Respondent.

The possession in right of inheritance of a widowed daughter having sons alive is not adverse to a reversioner.

Kemp, J.—We must observe in this case that the judgment of the Judge is altogether unsatisfactory. He has given no reasons whatever for his decision; he has not noticed the points taken in appeal nor passed any decision on these points. We desire that, in future, he will be more careful and write his judgments with reference to Section 359, Act VIII. of 1859.

The point taken in this special appeal is that the plaintiff's suit is barred, inasmuch as Bhowanee, the daughter of Unnopoorna, when the succession opened out to her, being a childless widow, had no right to inherit; and therefore her possession would be adverse to the plaintiff, and that the cause of action to the plaintiff arose on the death of Unnopoorna, and his suit from that date is barred. There can be no doubt that the estate became vested in Bhowanee, and there is evidence to show that, at the time of Unnopoorna's death, she, Bhowanee, had sons then alive; and therefore her possession in right of inheritance was a possession not adverse to the plaintiff, and his suit is not barred. We think that, having regard to the fact that the defendant filed a genealogical table found by both the Lower Courts to be false, and also to the fact that there is evidence showing that Bhowanee had sons alive when the succession opened out to her, the suit of the plaintiff has been rightly decreed.

We dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Arrears of rent—Liability to enhancement.

Case No. 1836 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 15th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 26th February 1870.

Surubjeet Mundul and another (two of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Mr. Misselback (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Appellants.

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Respondent.

In a suit for arrears of rent at an enhanced rate where a Judge finds that plaintiff is not entitled to the only relief asked for, he has no right to declare defendant's tenure liable to enhancement prospectively.

Mitter, J.—There is no evidence in this case to prove that the rate paid by the defendant, special appellant, is below the rate prevailing amongst the same class of ryots. The Judge has laid great stress upon the jummabundee papers of 1273, and on what he calls a mass of kubooleuts produced by the plaintiff's agent. But, in the first place, these papers have not been proved, as they ought to have been; and in the next place it is impossible to make out from them that the defendant is a ryot of the same class with the parties mentioned therein. Such being the case, the plaintiff's suit, which was for arrears of rent at enhanced rate for the year 1274 only, ought to have been dismissed at once. Instead of that, the Judge goes on to pass a decree declaring that the defendant's tenure is liable to enhancement, and he has actually fixed the rate at which the defendant will have to pay rent in the year 1278, which has not yet come.

We think that the Judge had no right to make any declaration regarding the liability of the defendant's tenure to enhancement prospectively, or to give plaintiff a decree for enhanced rent for the future, if he found that the plaintiff was not entitled to the only relief which he asked for in the plaint, *viz*, a decree for arrears of rent at enhanced rate for the year 1274.

We, therefore, reverse the decisions of both the Courts below, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit with all costs.

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The 13th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Mourosee jote—Accretions.

Case No. 1846 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by the ubordinate Judge of Purneah, dated the h June 1870, affirming a decision of Moonsiff of Arariah, dated the 1st nuary 1870.

Attimoollah (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

h Saheboollah and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

onshee Mahomed Yusuf for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondents.

ourosee jotedar with a right of occupancy has t to lands which accrete to his jote, and the ze- r cannot take them away and settle them with parties.

yley, J.—THE plaintiff in this case for 31 beegahs of land. In the plaint leged that those lands were within his and that in a certain pottah given by emindar they were mentioned as gang- atee.

he defendant's case substantially was the lands in suit accreted to his mou- s jote, and consequently he was entitled ave them as part of his jote. There have been some little indistinctness in answer given by the defendant's pleader e question put to him, but that indis- ness was not the fault of the defendant, of the Court. The question put was as ow these lands were the defendant's, and ther plaintiff had possession thereof, and dispossessed by the defendant. The wer in substance was that the lands in pute were lands appertaining by right to e defendant's mourosee kudimee jote, that the plaintiff never had possession thereof, and the defendant never dispossessed him.

The issues laid down by the first Court were—

1stly.—Whether the disputed land was settled with plaintiff under the pottah of 29th Magh 1274, Moolkee, as alleged by him; and whether the principal defendants forcibly dispossessed him on the 25th Kartick 1275, Moolkee.

2ndly.—Whether the disputed land is the exclusive right of the principal defendants, and is held by them for a long time from the time of their ancestors.

The first Court found in favor of the defendants, and dismissed the plaintiff's suit.

The Lower Appellate Court affirmed the judgment of the first Court, and the special appeal has been preferred before us on three grounds.

1stly.—That the Lower Appellate Court should have tried whether the 31 beegahs were included within the 41 beegahs which the defendant alleged to be his mourosee jote.

2ndly.—That the defendant's claim was on the ground of re-formation, and in the face of this the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in deciding in his favor on the ground of accretion; and that, even if it were an accretion, the zemindar had a right to settle the lands with whomsoever he pleased.

3rdly.—That under the very terms of the pottah the plaintiff's title to the land was proved.

Now, the finding of the Lower Appellate Court in this case is, that the plaintiff failed to prove by any reliable evidence that the disputed land was formerly his land, which had been washed away by the river, and that, on re-formation in 1272, the zemindar settled it temporarily till 1274 with the defendants.

The Lower Appellate Court also finds upon the evidence on the record that the disputed land is an accretion to the defendant's jote, which is ancestral, and respecting which the defendants had a right of occupancy, and that the accreted lands were what had in part diluviated. In this view, the Lower Appellate Court held that the defendant was entitled to the disputed lands, and dismissed the plaintiff's appeal.

We think the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is correct in law. There is, in fact, no new case made by the Lower Appellate Court. As stated above, the defendant's case all along was that the disputed 31 beegahs were part of his jote of 41 beegahs; that these lands had accreted to his jote, of which he was a mourosee holder, and therefore it became simply a matter of evidence as to whether, as the defendant stated, the lands were accretions to his mourosee jote, or as the plaintiff alleged they fell within the four corners of his pottah of 1275. We see no error in law in the finding of fact by the Lower Appellate Court upon the evidence that the lands were accretions to the defendant's mourosee jote; and that finding of itself settles the point that in such cases the jotedar with right of occupancy has a right to the lands by virtue of their being accretions to his jote, and that the zemindar has no right to take them away from him, and settle them with parties other than the owners of the parent jote; in other words, the zemindar must adhere to the legal principles of accretion connected with the jotedar's rights. It is only necessary to add that the plaintiff has failed to prove his allegation of reformation on the site of his original jote.

We therefore dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Civil Procedure Code—Day of hearing—Documentary evidence—Government records—Court of Wards.

Special Appeals from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Purneah, dated the 16th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 6th February 1870.

Case No. 2015 of 1870.

Sobbee Jha (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Shosheenath Jha and others (Defenda *Respondents.*

Baboo Tarucknath Sein for Appella

Baboo Kalee Kishen Sein for Respond

Case No. 2016 of 1870.

Sobbee Jha and another (two of the D ants), *Appellants,*

versus

Shosheenath Jha and another (Plaint *Respondents.*

The great object of the Procedure Code in re a day to be fixed for the hearing of a case and evidence to be adduced on that day is that parti thus be confronted with each other, and the wh dence on either side be at one and the same time the Court. Where a party fails to produce his ments at the proper time, a Court commits no e law in refusing to send for them subsequently, satisfied that they are necessary for the ends of j

Where records from a Government office are re as evidence, it is for the Court to send for them papers required from a Court of Wards, which i Government office, must be obtained by the par needs them, by means of a summons on the officer.

Bayley, J.—We think that both special appeals, which, it is admitted, be governed by one and the same dec must be dismissed with costs.

The only ground urged is that the Court declined to send for certain pa being jumma-khuruch and hustobood p for 1270 and 1271, from the Court of W agreeably to a petition, dated 20th Jan 1870, filed by the special appellant.

It appears that issues were settled on 6th December. The 13th December fixed for the parties to adduce their evide On that date all the evidence was adduc apparently, with the exception of the pap named above.

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On the special appellant's petition of the h January 1870, the order recorded on 9th February was that, as the Putwaree already given his evidence in the matter the collections, any order on the petition unnecessary.

Both the Courts below having given the ntiff a decree, the defendant now comes n special appeal before us.

Now, the great object of the Procedure e for fixing a day for the hearing, and iring all the evidence to be adduced on day, was that parties might thus be fronted with each other, and the whole ence on either side be, at one and the time, before the Court. We cannot the day for hearing having been duly , that there was any error in law in the Court's refusal to send for the papers the evidence in the case had been re- ed. Moreover, it is clear that it is not the Court to get evidence from a Court Wards, which is not a Government office the ordinary sense of the term. A Go- ment office has its records under the ge of a Government officer, and is bound keep them under its custody as Govern- t property, unless it receives a precept a Civil Court. Thus, in such cases, for the Court itself to send for the re- s of Government when it considers it essary. In the present case, it was the y of the special appellant to serve the per officer of the Court of Wards with a mons, calling upon him to produce such ers as the special appellant thought ne- ary to prove his case. In addition to , it has to be remarked that the papers ed on by the special appellant, even when ed for, would be only corroborative evi- ce. Without any direct evidence of the that the rent had been paid by Bhimroo er as ijaradar, those papers would not direct evidence in the case. But, be as it may, the special appellant not hav- followed the course indicated by the law, producing his evidence at the proper time, not having satisfied the Court that, for ends of justice, the papers ought to have en sent for subsequently, we think there is ground for us to interfere in this special peal.

We, therefore, dismiss these special appeals with costs.

The 14th February 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Issues—Procedure—Section 141, Code of Civil Procedure.

Case No. 1638 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Dacca, dated the 11th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Naraingunge, dated the 24th December 1869.

Kamul Kaminee Dossee (Plaintiff), *Appellant.*

versus

Obhoy Churn Ghose and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. Mun Mohun Ghose for Appellant.

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Respondents.

Where a Court, shortly before decision, recorded a proceeding declaring its intention to frame additional issues, and reserved the actual framing of the issues for the time of giving judgment, its procedure was held not to be warranted by section 141 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Jackson, J.—In this case it seems quite clear that there has been a mis-trial.

The plaintiff, a Hindoo married woman, brought a suit to recover possession of certain immoveable property which she alleged to have belonged to her mother, Nubo Doorgah, who died in 1264. She alleged that she herself was a minor unmarried at the time of her mother's decease.

The defendants' written statement showed that they claimed to hold this property under a conveyance, executed, on face of it, by the husband of Nubo Doorgah under a power from her; but the written statement also contained allegations that went to show that the property had originally belonged to the grandfather of the plaintiff in the male line; that this property had been mortgaged by him, but that consequently the mortgagee had re-conveyed the property to the mother; and that the mother, her husband, and the husband's father, had lived together, and jointly maintained themselves from this property.

The Moonsiff, before whom the case originally came, framed only two issues, one of which was whether the suit had been properly valued, and the second, whether the mookhtearnamah set up by the defendant was really made by Nubo Doorgah ; but before the case was finally determined, another Moonsiff succeeded the first Moonsiff ; and after the whole of the witnesses had been examined on the 23rd December, that Moonsiff recorded a proceeding in which he stated that it appeared to him necessary to alter the issues, and he declared, therefore, that the issues were to be altered, and then on the following day, the 24th December, he gave judgment in which an entirely new issue is stated, namely, whether the property really belonged to Nubo Doorgah, the plaintiff's mother, or was the property of the husband held in benamee.

Now, we have no evidence before us to show how this announcement was received by the parties in the Moonsiff's Court, but it was made one of the grounds of appeal in the memorandum of regular appeal in the Court of the Judge. They complained that this issue had been framed at the last moment, and had taken them by surprise, and that no opportunity had been given them of offering evidence upon it.

The objection appears to have been overruled by the Subordinate Judge, who looked at the evidence, and considered that the plaintiffs had offered evidence upon this point, and that it was not necessary to give them any further opportunity of so doing. The same objection is pressed here in special appeal.

I think it is impossible to do otherwise than order a new trial in this case. It has been contended for the respondent that the Court of first instance had a discretion, under Section 141 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to amend the issues, or frame additional issues, at any time before decision of the case on such terms as to it shall seem fit.

No doubt, the Court had such discretion, but that which it did was, not to amend the issues or frame additional issues on such terms as it thought fit, but, shortly before the decision, to record a proceeding declaring its intention to frame additional issues, and the actual framing of the additional issue was reserved for the time of giving judgment.

This, it is quite clear, cannot be suppo It was open to the Moonsiff, if he tho that a material issue remained, to frame issue, and thereupon, upon such terms costs and the like as it may think fit, a day for the further hearing of the upon that issue, so that the parties sh have an opportunity of adducing evid upon it, if necessary. This appears to been altogether neglected. The case therefore, go back to the Court of firs stance, in order that this procedure ma observed. That being done, the Court have the power of looking at the case o the points, and considering the whole of evidence and coming to a fresh decision.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 14th February 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onooko Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Right of occupancy—Section 6, Act X. of 1 Transfers.

Case No. 1731 of 1870 under Act X. of 1

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Judge of Dacca, dated the 20th 1870, affirming a decision of the De Collector of Moonsheegunge, dated the August 1869.

Tara Pershad Roy and others (Defendan *Appellants,*

versus

Soorjo Kant Acharjee Chowdhry (Plaintif *Respondent.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *mesh Chunder Mitter* for Appellants.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Sreem Doss* for Respondent.

The right of occupancy stated in Section 6, Act X. 1859, cannot be transferred except as laid down in t Act. When a jote is transferred even with the con of the zemindar, the transferree merely acquires a n jote on the terms on which the old tenure was hel but he is not entitled to make up his right of occupan by adding the time during which his predecessor hel

ckson, J.—THIS was a suit under ... Section 23, Act X. of 1859. The ...tiff, alleging himself to be the owner of ...ure consisting of 69 beegahs and odd ...hs in the zemindary of the defendants, ...d that he had been illegally dispossess... ...om that tenure by the defendants on the ... Choit 1274, and he, therefore, sought to ...ver possession. The defendants in their ...ver denied that the plaintiff had been ...ossessed in Choit 1274, denied that he ... been in possession for three years previ... to that time, and urged that consequent... ...he Law of Limitation barred the suit; ... urged also that the suit would not lie ...r Act X. of 1859. And the plaintiff ...ng alleged that he held a right of occu...cy in this land, the defendants contend... ...at no such right existed in him.

...oth the Lower Courts have found in ...r of the plaintiff on the question of ...itation; they have found that he was in ...session. The Lower Appellate Court, ...curring in the decision of the first Court, ... found that the plaintiff was dispossessed ... Choit 1274; and on the question of the ...t of occupancy of the plaintiff, the Ap...ate Court seems to be of opinion that, ...ther he held a right of occupancy or ..., still the transfer of the jote to the ...ent plaintiff was a legal transfer, and ...sequently the plaintiff was entitled to ...over.

...he first point taken before us in special ...eal is, that the Lower Appellate Court ... not properly decided the question of ...itation. I certainly think that it would ... better if the Appellate Court had given ... own reasons for coming to the conclusion ... which it has arrived. Looking back, ...wever, to the facts found by the Deputy ...llector, there seems to have been ample ...idence to the effect that the plaintiff had ...en in possession, and that he was dispossess... ... on the date alleged. The first Court ...es very carefully into the evidence on the ...int, and considers that the dispossession ... take place on the date alleged. There ... also the fact that, a few years before ...e alleged dispossession, there had been ... Act IV. decree passed in favor of the ...intiff, and that the plaintiff had actually ...ght to be put in possession, and orders ...d been passed to put him in possession. ...oupling this fact with the evidence of dis...ssession subsequently, it seems to me that ...e Courts were of opinion that the plaintiff ...d been in possession until he was dispossessed as alleged, and that there was ample evidence to support that finding.

The second point which has been taken before us is that, even taking the plaintiff's statements as detailed in his plaint to be correct, the plaintiff cannot obtain a decree; that it is for the plaintiff who brings a suit of this sort to show that his tenancy was still subsisting when he was dispossessed. The plaintiff claims his tenancy to be subsisting solely on one ground, namely, that he held a right of occupancy; he does not claim to hold under any terminable lease the term of which has not expired; he does not claim for his tenure any particular rights; his claim is that he holds a right of occupancy. It is argued before us for the defendant that this right of occupancy did not exist, and for the plaintiff that the plaintiff had made out such a right. We are not satisfied upon this point that the plaintiff has any right of occupancy. The plaintiff's allegation is that this tenure was formerly held by Mr. Lamb, that he purchased it from Mr. Lamb in the year 1267, and that he was dispossessed in the year 1274. It is admitted then that, between the years 1267 and 1274, he himself could not have acquired a right of occupancy, but that right is claimed as having been obtained by transfer from Mr. Lamb. It is argued that, as the zemindar consented to the transfer of the rights which Mr. Lamb possessed to the present plaintiff, the conduct of the zemindar in allowing the sale to take place was sufficient evidence of his consent to the transfer of the right of occupancy as well as of the jote. We think that the right of occupancy stated in Section 6, Act X. of 1859, is not a right which can be transferred except as laid down in the Act. It is a right which is attended with certain privileges which are stated in Act X. of 1859; those privileges can only be acquired under the distinct circumstances stated in that Act. There is nothing to show that in the original jote, which was stated to have been held by Mr. Lamb, there were any such terms as would make the tenure a perpetual one. As far as we can see, it was only a yearly holding. Even if the defendant consented to the transfer, it seems to me that the plaintiff thereby merely acquired a new jote on the same terms as the original tenure was held. He might in time acquire a right of occupancy, but he is not entitled to make up his right of occupancy to add the time during which his predecessor, Mr. Lamb, held it.

There is one decision of this Court quoted against this view of the law, which is to be

found in 5 Weekly Reporter, page 55, Act X. Rulings; and there is no doubt it is to some extent in point. There is an allusion there to some consent to the transfer having been given; but whether it was a direct consent, or one presumed only from the receipt of rent, is not very clear upon the facts. In this case now before us there was no direct consent, and consent is only presumed from the receipt of rent by some shareholders of the estate. The two cases may therefore not have been analogous.

There is a subsequent Full Bench decision of this Court to be found in 7 Weekly Reporter, page 529, which to some extent sets aside that former decision. It may be said that that also is not directly in point. It was there contended that every tenure in which a right of occupancy was acquired became a transferable tenure; but it was held that "there is nothing in Section 6, Act "X. of 1859, which shows that it was the "intention of the Legislature to alter the "nature of a jote and to convert a non-trans-"ferable jote into a transferable one, merely "because a ryot who held it for 12 years "had thereby gained a right of occupancy "under Act X. of 1859."

I am of opinion, then, that the plaintiff has not acquired in this jote, by his 7 years' holding, or by the transfer from Mr. Lamb, any right of occupancy, and the plaintiff's tenure must, therefore, be held to be a yearly tenure subsisting from year to year, and he is liable, accordingly, to be dispossessed at the end of each year when his tenure is liable to be determined.

There was at one time some question whether a Court should, in trying a case under Clause 6, Section 23, Act X. of 1859, go into the question as to the plaintiff's tenure being still subsisting or not. But this has been set at rest by the Full Bench Decision of this Court to be found in 9 Weekly Reporter, page 513. It was there held in a suit under Clause 6, Section 23, Act X. of 1869, where a ryot alleged that he had been illegally ejected, it was a proper issue for determination whether the tenancy was at an end or not; "the question is open as "to whether the tenancy was at an end or "not; and if at an end, the ryot must fail "in his suit."

Looking, then, to the plaintiff's case as regards his own tenancy, it seems to us that he has altogether failed to make out his right of occupancy. He was, therefore, a yearly tenant. His own statement th was dispossessed at the end of the ye under these circumstances, sufficient to t him out of Court. The dispossession on the 27th Choit 1274. It is true tha or three days existed beyond that up to end of the year. But we think, in fact, the dispossession was at the end of the and at a time when the defendant entitled to dispossess him, because his tenure had ceased. The plaintiff, there upon the facts stated in the plaint, and the facts found in this case, cannot think, recover his jote. The only upon which there might be some case out for him is, if the original jote was petual jote. But there is no allegatio that sort. It is only alleged here tha plaintiff has a right of occupancy, and the jote is transferable. That it is ferable with the consent of the zemin undoubted, and such consent has been out in this case; but there is no evid and indeed no allegation, that the or tenure of Mr. Lamb was of a perp nature.

We reverse the decisions of the L Courts, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit costs in all the Courts.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur in dismissin suit of the plaintiff with costs.

The 14th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ain *Judges.*

Water-course—Rights.

Case No. 1752 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Subordinate Judge of Gya, d the 30th May 1870, reversing a deci of the Moonsiff of that District, dated 29th September 1869.

Nund Kishore Singh and others (Defendan *Appellants,*

versus

Lalla Burjun Lall (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

h

r. R. E. *Twidale* for Appellants.

Nil Madhub Sein for Respondent.

uit to compel the filling up of a *pyne* which ran intiff's land and conveyed water to defendate, where defendant denied having done anyyond his own rights or anything which was into the plaintiff, plaintiff obtained a decree.

that, before giving judgment for plaintiff, the ught to have shown in what manner his d been infringed, and then to give a definite s to what defendant was bound to do.

hon, J.—We think that the decision Lower Appellate Court, as it stands, be supported.

plaintiff's suit was to compel the filling certain pyne which ran over the ff's land for the purpose of conveying to the defendant's estate, and in the of that pyne was a certain *dangah* h which the water had been aced to flow out of the pyne on to the f's land.

defendant denied that he had done g beyond his own rights or injurious plaintiff; he alleged that he had mereired the bed of the *pyne* in order e water should flow along it in the omed way.

Moonsiff went fully into the case, onsidered that the evidence of the es for the plaintiff was discrepant ontradictory, and that the plaintiff had de out the right that he claimed, and t he had sustained no damage. He, re, dismissed the suit.

Subordinate Judge, on appeal, has summarily overruled the opinion of oonsiff upon the evidence, and has d that the survey-map produced by aintiff conclusively establishes that he itled to have his land irrigated from endant's *pyne*; and although he does w in what precise way plaintiff has damaged, he orders that the defendto fill up the *pyne* again as it was ; or, as an alternative, that if the nt should open the plaintiff's *dangah* a manner as to allow the flow of rough it, so that the plaintiff should tain any damage, then the plaintiff content therewith.

, that is a decree impossible to be exbecause a contest would, of course, arise came to the plaintiff availing himself to what depth the pyne had been ; s noticeable that the Moonsiff shows the evidence of the witnesses on this point to have been very contradictory, some saying that it was of the depth of a cubit, some of a yard, some that it came up to a man's breast, and others the full height of a man, and so on. I think it clear that the Court below, before giving judgment for the plaintiff, ought to have shown in what manner the right of the plaintiff had been infringed; and having found on that point, it should then have given a definite decree as to what defendant was bound to do, that is to say, to define what the depth of the defendant's *pyne* had been relatively to plaintiff's *dangah*, and to what height it was necessary to restore it again.

I think, therefore, the case must go back to the Subordinate Judge in order that he may determine these points, and in doing so to re-consider the evidence, and attribute, at any rate, to the judgment of the Moonsiff that weight which it fairly deserves from the circumstance of his having had the witnesses before him, and having gone with great care and attention into the facts of the case.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 14th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure—Collusion—Onus probandi—Conveyance by judgment-debtor—Attachment.

Case No. 1858 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Hooghly, dated the 16th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Serampore, dated the 23rd February 1870.

Digumburee Dossee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Banee Madhub Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Bhuggobutty Churn Ghose and *Kalee Prosunno Roy* for Appellant.

Baboos Sham Lall Mitter and *Mohendro Lall Seal* for Respondent.

If a plaintiff coming into Court under Section 246 of the Code of Civil Procedure to set aside an attachment and sale shows, in proof of his title, that a deed of sale has been executed in his favor by the judgment-debtors, and that consideration-money has passed and possession has been given him, he starts his case sufficiently. If the defendant alleges notwithstanding that the sale was collusive and fictitious, it is for him to show that it was so.

It is not illegal for a judgment-debtor to dispose of all his property before attachment, provided the transaction is an *actual* conveyance and not merely nominal.

Glover, J.—THE defendant No. 1 in this case, Digumburee Dossee, got a decree against the other two defendants on the original side of the High Court, and in execution attached certain properties as belonging to the judgment-debtors, whereupon the plaintiff put in a petition under Section 246 of the Code of Civil Procedure, claiming the property under a bill of sale said to have been executed by the judgment-debtors. This petition was rejected on the 28th of April 1868, and the property brought to sale in satisfaction of the decree. Upon this the plaintiff brought a regular suit to establish his title both as against the decree-holder, that is, the present defendant No. 1, and as against the auction-purchaser. It appears, however, that the only party upon whom summons was served was the auction-purchaser, and the result of the litigation was that the plaintiff got a decree as against the auction-purchaser only. At the same time, the sale was quashed for irregularity. On the property being thus released, the judgment-creditor again attached it in satisfaction of her original decree against the defendants Nos. 2 and 3. The plaintiff again intervened, claiming the property on the same ground as he did before, namely, by purchase from the defendants. His claim was again disallowed, and he brought a fresh suit (the present one) this time as against the decree-holder.

The defence is that the suit is barred by limitation, not having been brought within one year from the 28th of April 1868; and second, that the sale to the plaintiff was collusive and fraudulent, made only a few days before the attachment.

The first Court held that the suit was not barred, but on the merits dismissed the plaintiff's case, finding that the sale was collusive.

The Judge, on appeal, reversed that d sion, holding that there was no proof the sale of the property which was pr to have been made was a collusive t action, although there might be suspi circumstances arising from the adm connection between the parties.

In special appeal it is contended th Judge placed the onus improperly o defendants, that it was for the plaint prove that the sale to him was genuine that, in coming to his decision, the J overlooked all the various circumst which swayed the judgment of the Court, and did not give weight to the va presumptions which induced the Moo to hold that the sale was collusive fraudulent.

As regards the onus, it seems to us the onus was not on the plaintiff, but o defendant. The plaintiff, coming into under Section 246 to set aside an at ment and sale, was bound, no doubt, to his own title; and this he could only by showing that there had been a document executed, that possession had given to him by the vendor, and th consideration of that sale had pa *Primâ facie* this was a sufficient st of the plaintiff's case, and if the defen wished to show that, notwithstanding the sale had been made (as both the L Courts have found on the evidence it was made) that sale was collusive fictitious, it was for the defendant to that it was so.

A great deal has been made in the co of the argument of the fact that the ve and the vendee are relatives, and that judgment-debtor has successfully contr to get rid of the whole of his propert one party or the other, so as entirely to feat his judgment-creditors: and that sale in particular was made only with days of the attachment by the judgm creditor, defendant. It may very well that the judgment-debtor did dispose o his property with the intention of kee his judgment-creditors out of their mo but if he did *actually* dispose of all his perty, and if he did so before there was attachment upon that property, howe immoral his conduct may have been, it not illegal. To make a transaction of sort illegal, it would be necessary for defendant to show that the alleged con ance was a nominal one only, and that

b

ment-debtor, although he pretended to did, in fact, retain possession of the pro- y himself. On this point it has been d by the Judge that the defendant has d to prove that the judgment-debtor, and the plaintiff, was in actual possession e property. Here, again, it is said that ens has been wrongly placed, and that s not for the defendant to show that dgment-debtor was in possession. For ame reasons given above, it appears to t, under the circumstances of this case, ens was on the defendant, and that the e was right in so placing it.

e have been referred in the course of argument to a decision published at 422, Volume XI., Weekly Reporter, e case of Mohima Chunder Koondoo Nooroodeen and another, to show where there is an allegation of illegality, for the plaintiff to prove the illegality. that case has nothing to do with the t one. That was a suit to set aside mary order under Section 246, on the d that the summary order was illegal, ere there is no question as to the lega- t otherwise of the summary order; the question is whether the sale was ac- made at a time when the judgment- had still the right to convey, or not.

ere seem, therefore, to be no grounds terfering with the decision of the Court , and this special appeal must be dis- d with costs.

The 14th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

's evidence—Enhancement of rent — Ex- cess land—Section 4, Act X., 1859.

ses Nos. 1904 to 1908 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

ial Appeals from a decision passed by e Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the h June 1870, reversing a decision of e Deputy Collector of Moodhapoora, dated the 26th November 1869.

Mr. Richard DeCourcy (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Meghnath Jha and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Khettur Mohun Mookerjee* for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

The evidence of a defendant's agent, in the absence of defendant's own deposition, though not full and complete, is legal evidence.

The rent of a tenure protected from enhancement under the provisions of Section 4, Act X. of 1859, cannot be increased on the ground of excess land.

Mitter, J.—THIS was a suit for arrears of rent at enhanced rates.

The Lower Appellate Court has found that the tenure held by the defendant is protected from enhancement under the provisions of Section 4, Act X. of 1859.

It is urged in special appeal that the only evidence to prove the farkhuttees and dakhilas produced by the defendant consists of the deposition of his karpurdauz or agent, and that this evidence ought not to have been accepted by the Judge as good and sufficient, in the absence of the depositions of the defendant himself.

We are of opinion that this objection is not tenable. Although the evidence of the defendant's karpurdauz is not full and complete, there can be no doubt whatever that it was legal evidence. He produces the dakhilas and farkhutees, and says they were the dakhilas and farkhutees obtained by his principal from the previous owners of the land. What means of knowledge the witness possessed does not appear on the face of his depositions; but if there was any doubt to be cleared upon this point, it was open to, and the duty of, the plaintiff to cross-examine the witnesses on the matter; and as he did not choose to do so, we cannot hold that the Judge has committed an error in law in believing that evidence. We wish further to remark that a strong corroboration of this evidence is afforded by the papers filed by the plaintiff himself; and although the Deputy Collector came to a different conclusion from that arrived at by the Lower Appellate Court, he was obliged to admit that the jummabundee papers put in by the plaintiff himself did not show much variation in the rent payable by the defendant.

The next objection relates to excess lands. With regard to these lands, the Judge held that the plaintiff has failed to show that he ever received or collected any rent from the defendant on account of them. But be that as it may, it is quite clear that the rent of the original tenure held by the defendant, which tenure has been expressly found by the Judge to be protected from enhancement, cannot be altered or increased on the ground of any excess lands. If those excess lands were included within the original tenure from the beginning, the plaintiff's claim for assessment of those lands must share the same fate as his claim for the enhancement of the rent of the original tenure, for whatever quantity of land might be in the possession of the defendant, if he has been paying at a uniform rate for those lands from the time of the permanent settlement, the plaintiff's claim for enhancement of rent must fall to the ground under the express provisions of Section 4. If, on the other hand, the so-called excess lands have been unjustly taken possession of by the defendant subsequent to the creation of the original tenure, the plaintiff cannot maintain *this* action in the Revenue Court without proving that the relation of landlord and tenant exists between him and the defendant with regard to those lands; for then his only remedy would be to sue the defendant in the Civil Court, either for ejectment as a trespasser or for use and occupation. The view taken by us is fully supported by a judgment delivered by the late Chief Justice in the case of Roushun Bibee, reported at page 57, Act X. Rulings, Volume VI., Weekly Reporter. That there was a mourosee pottah in that case does not, in our opinion, make any difference whatever. Whether the original tenure is covered by a mourosee pottah, or it is protected from enhancement under the provisions of Section 4, the consequences would be precisely the same; for to make any addition to the rent payable on account of the lands so protected on the ground that the defendant has taken possession of other lands which were not originally leased to him would be, in fact, to destroy the permanent mokurruree tenure which the law has given to him. It was for plaintiff to rebut the presumption under Section 4, if he could, by showing a variation; but this he did not do, and there is nothing to show that the agreement between the parties was for the payment of so much per beegah.

For the above reasons, we modify the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, by awarding to the plaintiff a decree for the amo[illegible] admitted by the defendant to be due f[illegible] him.

The result of our decision is that a de[illegible] will be entered in the plaintiff's favor for [illegible] pees 6-10 annas in special appeal No. 1[illegible] for Rupees 5-11 annas in special appeal [illegible] 1905; for Rupees 2-4½ annas in special ap[illegible] No. 1907; and for Rupees 11-3 annas in sp[illegible] appeal No. 1908, the plaintiff paying all [illegible] costs incurred by the defendants in the L[illegible] Courts, but no costs in this Court, as [illegible] respondent did not appear. Special ap[illegible] No. 1906 should be dismissed with cos[illegible]

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Gl[illegible]
Judges.

Attachment—Judgment-creditor's claim [illegible] Judgment-debtor's right.

Case No. 425 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order p[illegible] by the Judicial Commissioner of C[illegible] Nagpore, dated the 13th August [illegible] affirming an order of the Deputy Co[illegible] sioner of Lohurdugga, dated the [illegible] April 1870.

Shunkur Sahoo (Decree-holder), *Appella[illegible]*

versus

Mungul Singh (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Moonshee Mahomed Ismail for Appella[illegible]

No one for Respondent.

Where one judgment-creditor has been diligent, [illegible] has secured attachment of certain property, his j[illegible] ment must be satisfied before the proceeds can be a[illegible] able in satisfaction of a later attachment by ano[illegible] creditor.

The mere fact of a property being attached does [illegible] destroy a judgment-debtor's right in that property.

Kemp, J.—THE decree-holder is the sp[illegible] cial appellant in this case.

appears that, in the province of Chota pore, a special rule obtains in reference e execution of decrees. In that province xecution can be taken without the sanc- of the Commissioner. This is under s of the Government of Bengal.

e Deputy Commissioner in this case d to the Commissioner for leave to sell t properties in execution of the special tant's decree. The Commissioner re- that it appeared to him that the judg- -debtor had no right in the property; s it had already been attached in satis- n of a decree previously obtained by n Singh, and that attachment was like- last for 13 years, he refused to sanc- the sale.

e first Court held that attachment of property might be issued; but as the rty was under attachment in execution prior decree, the present order for hment should not, looking to Section 270 e Code, be allowed to commence to take t until the former decree is satisfied.

is now contended in special appeal that special appellant was entitled to share bly in the proceeds of the property at- d; and secondly, that the view of the taken by the Lower Court is erroneous.

e first ground is manifestly untenable. is not a case of right to share rateably e-proceeds. This is a case where one ment-creditor has been diligent, and has ed attachment of the property in satis- n of a judgment; and therefore, un- s judgment is satisfied, there are no eeds which can be rateably distributed.

n the second point, we think that the missioner was wrong in supposing that mere fact of the property being attached oyed the right of the judgment-debtor at property. It follows, therefore, that, the expiration of the present attach- t by satisfaction of the prior decree, the ent decree-holder will be entitled to re- r the amount of his decree. Section 2, VIII. of 1859, will not apply to a case his description.

he present decree-holder will be at liber- o apply to the Commissioner for sanction he sale on the expiration of the attach- t taken out in execution of the prior ree.

The special appeal is dismissed without , nobody appearing on the other side.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Joint decree—Execution—Section 207, Code of Civil Procedure.

Case No. 449 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Sylhet, dated the 2nd September 1870.

Indro Coomar Doss (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Mohinee Mohun Roy and another (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

Where one of several holders of the same decree wishes to take out execution, his proper course is to apply, under Section 207, Act VIII. of 1859, to execute the whole decree, and the Court, if it sees sufficient cause, may admit the application, passing such order as may be necessary for protecting the interests of the other decree-holders.

Jackson, J.—We think the Judge was quite correct in the decision which he has passed in this case. There are many decisions of this Court which have ruled that one of several decree-holders cannot be allowed to take out execution of a part of the decree only to the extent of his own interest. If he wishes to execute the decree, he may, under Section 207, Act VIII. of 1859, make an application to execute the whole decree, and the Court, if it shall see sufficient cause to allow him to do so, may admit the application, passing such order at the time as may be necessary for protecting the interests of the decree-holders. The proper course for the applicant is to make such an application to the Court whose duty it is to execute the decree. There is nothing wrong in law in the decision of the Judge.

We dismiss the appeal, but without costs, as the respondent has not appeared.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 16th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Execution—Excess payments—Section 11, Act XXIII. of 1861.

Cases Nos. 1507 to 1510 of 1870.

Special Appeals from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Mymensingh, dated the 30th April 1870, reversing a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 10th June 1869.

Kashee Kishore Roy Chowdhry and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Kishen Chunder Sandyal and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Sreenath Dass and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Appellants.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Kalee Mohun Doss* for Respondents.

Sums paid in execution in excess of what was due under the decree can only be recovered by application to the Court which executed the decree, not by a separate suit.

Jackson, J.—These are all suits to recover from the defendants certain sums of money, which it is alleged that the plaintiff overpaid to each of the defendants in execution of decree which the defendants had obtained against the plaintiff for costs in a previous suit. The defendants denied that they were liable to reimburse the money which they had received—they alleged that the money was jointly due to them; and they also pleaded that the plaintiff had made a voluntary payment.

Both the Lower Courts have dismissed the plaintiff's suit, the Appellate Court holding that the suit was not rightly brought as a separate suit, and also holding that the payment was voluntary, and could not be recovered. From these decisions the plaintiff has appealed to this Court.

We think that the Lower Courts have been right in the view which they have taken that no separate suit can be brought for the recovery of these sums. All questions regarding costs and the amount of costs which have to be paid under the decree m[illegible] declared by Section 11, Act XXIII. of [illegible] be settled by the Court which has to ex[illegible] the decree. Even, however, if there [illegible] jurisdiction in the Lower Courts to ent[illegible] the appeal on the ground that these [illegible] sums were not directly mentioned in the [illegible] cree, and that, so far, it was not an order w[illegible] was passed exactly in execution of the dec[illegible] still we think that the Lower Appellate C[illegible] was right in dismissing the suit. Before [illegible] plaintiff can recover this sum, he must [illegible] that he is justly entitled to recover, and [illegible] the defendants are not entitled to retai[illegible] money. It is quite possible that, alth[illegible] those amounts were not stated in the de[illegible] still the defendants were justly entitl[illegible] receive them. The suit appears to have [illegible] one for confirmation of possession and [illegible] cover wassilat to the amount of 30,00[illegible] pees. The defendants in the case were [illegible] numerous, and it is clear that they had [illegible] rate vakeels, and there is nothing [illegible] upon these proceedings, and not even an[illegible] gation in the plaint, that they were no[illegible] titled to separate vakeel's fees. It is [illegible] possible, if the plaintiff had refused to [illegible] them the money which they dema[illegible] that the defendants might have reco[illegible] the sum by making an application to [illegible] Court which had passed the decree. [illegible] plaintiff nowhere states under what cir[illegible] stances he paid the money which was [illegible] from him. His only ground for this s[illegible] that these sums were not contained in [illegible] decree, and therefore he is entitled to rec[illegible] But it by no means follows that, because [illegible] were not stated in the decree, he will be [illegible] titled to recover them; he will still b[illegible] before he can obtain any decree, to p[illegible] that the defendants were not justly ent[illegible] to what they received.

Looking into all the circumstances of [illegible] former suit, we think that the Lower Co[illegible] were right in dismissing the plaintiff's cl[illegible] and we also dismiss these appeals [illegible] costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur in dismi[illegible] these appeals with costs. I hold that q[illegible] tions relating to sums alleged to have b[illegible] paid in discharge or satisfaction of the [illegible] cree or the like, as well as questions ari[illegible] between the parties to the suit in which [illegible] decree was passed, and relating to the exe[illegible] tion thereof, shall be determined by or[illegible] of the Court executing the decree, and [illegible] by separate suit. This is exactly the c[illegible] in these suits. Money is alleged to b[illegible]

paid in satisfaction of the decree against plaintiffs. I am of opinion that, even if plaintiffs have paid more than what was by them under the decree, they should applied to the Court which was execut- the decree, and cannot seek to recover so paid by them by separate suit.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. C. Paul, *Judge.*

Calcutta Small Cause Court—New trial—Evidence—Affidavit.

Submitted for the opinion of the High Court by the 1st and 2nd Judges of the Court of Small Causes at Calcutta.

Modhoosoodun Koondoo and others, *Plaintiffs,*

versus

Madhubram Sewloll and another, *Defendants.*

Mr. Macrae for the Plaintiffs.

Mr. Phillips for the Defendants.

party who applies for a rule for a new trial, and ob- on particular materials, ought not to be allowed into fresh evidence with a view to strengthen his when the rule comes on for hearing. If, on hearing parties, the Court thinks further inquiry neces- it can, of course, make such inquiry in such man- seems most fit to it.

When new trials are moved for on allegation of facts, would be very convenient that a practice should be adopted of requiring the facts to be stated by affi- and in like manner the answer to be supported affidavit.

Case.—The plaintiffs, Modhoosoodun Koondoo, Pauchkowree Koondoo, Nobin Chunder Dutt, and Bonomally Dass, carrying on business at Burra Bazar, applied on the November 1870 for the issue of a sum- returnable on the same day against Ma- Sewloll and Goolzareemull, who, as alleged, were also carrying on business at Bazar under the firm of Madhubram, on affidavit that the said defendants, being indebted to the plaintiffs in a sum of Rupees 4-5-6, were about to withdraw their persons from the jurisdiction of the Court, and were removing their goods from their shop. Under No. 2 of the Rules of Practice of the Court, a summons was issued accordingly. At the hearing the summons was proved to have been served, by being posted on the door of the defendant's shop which was then closed; and the claim, which was for goods sold and delivered, was decreed *ex parte* in favor of the plaintiffs.

Rule No. 6 of the Rules of Practice of the Court.

A copy of the decree was taken by the plaintiffs on the same day to enable them to obtain execution against the defendants in the Mofussil,

Section 78, Act IX. of 1850.

On the 13th December the defendant, Goolzareemull, for himself and for the defendant Sewloll, appeared with his attorney, Baboo Ongsho Prokash Gangooly, and applied to have the time enlarged to the 17th December to move for a rule calling upon the plaintiffs to show cause why the judgment obtained by the plaintiffs, and all subsequent proceedings, should not be set aside on the ground that the summons had not been served.

On the 17th December the defendant Goolzareemull was examined on solemn affirmation, and stated that he and the defendant Sewloll were not carrying on business in Burra Bazar at the time when the summons was served, and were not partners of the firm of Madhubram, and that they were not indebted to the plaintiffs, and had received no notice of the plaintiffs' action until his property was attached in execution at Cawnpore. On this statement a rule was issued calling on the plaintiffs to show cause why the proceedings should not be set aside. The rule was made returnable on the 7th January, which day being a holiday the case stood over to the 14th January.

On the 14th January Baboo Ongsho Prokash Gangooly, the defendants' attorney, asked that, before the plaintiffs were called upon to show cause against the rule, he should be permitted to give further evidence in support of it. The plaintiff's pleader objected that it was not open to the defendants after they had obtained their rule to support it by further evidence.

The Court was of the same opinion, and declined to admit the evidence tendered, subject to the opinion of the Judges of the High Court as to whether it should be received or not.

The case stands adjourned until the opinion of the Judges of the High Court on this point has been obtained.

The judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—We think that the party who applies for a rule for a new trial, and obtains it on particular materials, ought not to be allowed to go into fresh evidence with a view to strengthen his case when the rule comes on for hearing.

If, on hearing both parties, the Court thinks further inquiry necessary, they can, of course, make such inquiry in such manner as seems most fit to them.

We desire to add that, when new trials are moved for on allegation of facts, it would be very convenient that a practice should be introduced of requiring the facts to be stated by affidavit, and in like manner the answer to be supported by affidavit.

Defendants must pay costs on scale 2.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Execution—Bona fides.

Case No. 391 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 16th July 1870, reversing an order of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 28th January 1870.

Maharajah Dheraj Mahatab Chand Bahadoor (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Modhoo Soodun Banerjee and others (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Ashootosh Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee and *Moulvie Murhumut Hossein* for Respondents.

Where a decree-holder pays into Court sums of money for the purpose of issuing notices of attachment and sale, his intention must be supposed to be *bonâ fide.*

Where the finding of the first Court tended to show that the proceedings of the decree-holder were *bonâ fide,* and the Lower Appellate Court found otherwise without giving any reasons whatever, the High Court held itself bound to interfere and restore the judgment of the first Court.

Glover, J.—We think that the decision of the Judge in this case cannot be sustained.

It appears that the decree was originally obtained on the 22nd November 1861. The first application for execution was made in May 1863, and on this application notice was served on the judgment-debtor, and his property was attached. After attachment, a third party intervened, and claimed the property, and his claim was allowed. The execution-case was then struck off the file in April 1864. A second execution was taken out on the 2nd October 1866, and in December of that year notice was again served on the judgment-debtor, and his property attached. Sale-proclamation was issued in February 1867, and an officer was appointed to proceed to the spot and carry out the usual proceedings. But then a third party intervened claiming the property, and that claim was disallowed on the 30th April 1867. On the same date it appears from the endorsement on the back of one of the papers on the record that the execution-case was struck off by the Moonsiff on the ground that the decree-holder professed himself unable to carry on proceedings at that time. The present execution was taken out on the 28th September 1869.

The first Court found that this execution was within time; but the Judge considered it barred, because none of the early proceedings were taken with intent to realize the amount of the decree. How he comes to this conclusion, it is not easy to see; for when a decree-holder pays into Court sums of money for the purpose of issuing notice of proclamation of attachment and sale, it must be supposed that he does so with the intention of executing his decree, and recovering the money due to him.

In this case it appears that the decree-holder, both in 1863 and 1864, and again in 1866 and 1867, did pay money into the Moonsiff's Court for the purpose of getting his decree executed.

If the Judge had given any reasons for deciding that these proceedings, though apparently made with the object of executing a decree, were, in reality, mere shams, and that there was no intention on the part of the decree-holder of proceeding with the

execution, it might have been impossible for us to interfere in special appeal. But as he has given no reasons whatever, and as the finding of the Lower Court tends to show that the proceedings by the decree-holder were *bonâ fide* and taken for the purpose of executing his decree, we think we ought to restore the judgment of the first Court in favor of the decree-holder.

We think it also right to mention that the Judge is not exactly correct when he says that the decree-holder was asked whether he would carry on the decree, and his representative in Court said "no," and the case was, accordingly, struck off on the 30th April 1867. We have looked at the record, and find that what the decree-holder's representative said on that occasion was that, on that particular day, he was not prepared to go on with the case. There was nothing in this statement to lead any one to suppose that he intended to give up his decree altogether.

The appeal is allowed, and the decree of the Lower Appellate Court is reversed with costs, which we assess at 20 rupees.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Section 246, Act VIII., 1859—Procedure—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 458 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Dacca, dated the 7th September 1870, reversing an order of the Moonsiff of Naraingunge, dated 31st March 1870.

Hurish Chunder Goopto (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Shushee Malla Goptia (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Baboo Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty for Appellant.

Baboo Nuleet Chunder Sein for Respondent.

A decree-holder having attached certain property in execution, the judgment-debtor objected under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, that, as the original decree had been passed against her mother, the property could not be sold in execution, as it had been inherited by her from her father.

HELD that the defendant so intervening should have been held to be a third party, and that a decision under that Section would not be appealable to the Judge.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case the decree-holder having attached a certain property in execution of a decree that he had against the opposite party, the judgment-debtor objected, under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, that that property should not be sold in execution of this decree, inasmuch as that property was inherited by her from her father; and that the original decree having been passed for a debt incurred by her mother, properties inherited from the mother were only liable to be sold in execution. This objection was not, however, tried by the first Court under Section 246, under which it should have been tried. The objector, though a judgment-debtor, combined in her person two sorts of rights. She might have been in possession of property belonging to the mother, who was the original judgment-debtor, but she was also in possession of properties belonging to the father. The Moonsiff was, therefore, bound to decide this objection under Section 246. But he does not try the objection under that Section; he merely says: "The petitioner has brought "this suit on the allegation that her mother "has no right whatever to the properties "under attachment, and when it is not un-"known that, under the terms of the decree, "the right, title, and interest of the late "Gooroo Soonduree to, and in, the attach-"ed properties shall only be put up to sale; "consequently such sale would in no way "prejudice the right of any other party. "Hence, there is no necessity of entering "into any inquiry regarding the disposal of "the objection advanced by the female objec-"tor. It is, therefore, ordered that this be "put up with the record."

On appeal by the claimant to the Judge, the Judge has reversed the Moonsiff's decision on the ground that the decree-holder has failed to prove a certain will, by which he wanted to show that the property belonged to the mother.

The judgment-creditor appeals to this Court, urging that the Lower Appellate Court had no right to entertain an appeal against an order passed by the Moonsiff under Section 246, and asks us to quash the order of the Judge, as having been passed without juris-

The case stands adjourned until the opinion of the Judges of the High Court on this point has been obtained.

The judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—We think that the party who applies for a rule for a new trial, and obtains it on particular materials, ought not to be allowed to go into fresh evidence with a view to strengthen his case when the rule comes on for hearing.

If, on hearing both parties, the Court thinks further inquiry necessary, they can, of course, make such inquiry in such manner as seems most fit to them.

We desire to add that, when new trials are moved for on allegation of facts, it would be very convenient that a practice should be introduced of requiring the facts to be stated by affidavit, and in like manner the answer to be supported by affidavit.

Defendants must pay costs on scale 2.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Execution—Bona fides.

Case No. 391 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 16th July 1870, reversing an order of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 28th January 1870.

Maharajah Dheraj Mahatab Chand Bahadoor (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Modhoo Soodun Banerjee and others (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Ashootosh Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee and *Moulvie Murhumut Hossein* for Respondents.

Where a decree-holder pays into Court sums of money for the purpose of issuing notices of attachment and sale, his intention must be supposed to be *bonâ fide.*

Where the finding of the first Court tended to show that the proceedings of the decree-holder were *bonâ fide,* and the Lower Appellate Court found otherwise without giving any reasons whatever, the High Court itself bound to interfere and restore the judgment of the first Court.

Glover, J.—We think that the decision of the Judge in this case cannot be sustained.

It appears that the decree was originally obtained on the 22nd November 1861. The first application for execution was made in May 1863, and on this application notice was served on the judgment-debtor, and his property was attached. After attachment a third party intervened, and claimed the property, and his claim was allowed. The execution-case was then struck off the file in April 1864. A second execution was taken out on the 2nd October 1866, and in December of that year notice was again served on the judgment-debtor, and his property attached. Sale-proclamation was issued in February 1867, and an officer was appointed to proceed to the spot and carry out the usual proceedings. But then a third party intervened claiming the property, and that claim was disallowed on the 30th July 1867. On the same date it appears from the endorsement on the back of one of the papers on the record that the execution was struck off by the Moonsiff on the ground that the decree-holder professed himself unable to carry on proceedings at that time. The present execution was taken out on the 28th September 1869.

The first Court found that this execution was within time; but the Judge considered it barred, because none of the early proceedings were taken with intent to realize the amount of the decree. How he came to this conclusion, it is not easy to see; for when a decree-holder pays into Court sums of money for the purpose of issuing notices of proclamation of attachment and sale, it must be supposed that he does so with the intention of executing his decree, and recovering the money due to him.

In this case it appears that the decree-holder, both in 1863 and 1864, and again in 1866 and 1867, did pay money into the Moonsiff's Court for the purpose of getting his decree executed.

If the Judge had given any reasons for deciding that these proceedings, though apparently made with the object of executing a decree, were, in reality, mere sham, and that there was no intention on the part of the decree-holder of proceeding with the

tion, it might have been impossible s to interfere in special appeal. But e has given no reasons whatever, and e finding of the Lower Court tends to that the proceedings by the decree- er were *bona fide* and taken for the ose of executing his decree, we think ght to restore the judgment of the Court in favor of the decree-holder.

e think it also right to mention that Judge is not exactly correct when he that the decree-holder was asked whe- he would carry on the decree, and his entative in Court said "no," and the as, accordingly, struck off on the 30th 1867. We have looked at the record, nd that what the decree-holder's re- tative said on that occasion was that, t particular day, he was not prepared on with the case. There was nothing statement to lead any one to suppose e intended to give up his decree alto- r.

e appeal is allowed, and the decree of Lower Appellate Court is reversed with , which we assess at 20 rupees.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

tion 246, Act VIII., 1859—Procedure—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 458 of 1870.

ellaneous *Appeal from an order passed the Judge of Dacca, dated the 7th eptember 1870, reversing an order of e Moonsiff of Naraingunge, dated 31st arch 1870.*

arish Chunder Goopto (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

ushee Malla Goptia (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Baboo Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty for Appellant.

boo Nuleet Chunder Sein for Respondent.

A decree-holder having attached certain property in execution, the judgment-debtor objected under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, that, as the original decree had been passed against her mother, the property could not be sold in execution, as it had been inherited by her from her father.

HELD that the defendant so intervening should have been held to be a third party, and that a decision under that Section would not be appealable to the Judge.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case the decree-holder having attached a certain property in execution of a decree that he had against the opposite party, the judgment-debtor objected, under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, that that property should not be sold in execution of this decree, inasmuch as that property was inherited by her from her father; and that the original decree having been passed for a debt incurred by her mother, properties inherited from the mother were only liable to be sold in execution. This objection was not, however, tried by the first Court under Section 246, under which it should have been tried. The objector, though a judgment-debtor, combined in her person two sorts of rights. She might have been in possession of property belonging to the mother, who was the original judgment-debtor, but she was also in possession of properties belonging to the father. The Moonsiff was, therefore, bound to decide this objection under Section 246. But he does not try the objection under that Section; he merely says: "The petitioner has brought "this suit on the allegation that her mother "has no right whatever to the properties "under attachment, and when it is not un- "known that, under the terms of the decree, "the right, title, and interest of the late "Gooroo Soonduree to, and in, the attach- "ed properties shall only be put up to sale; "consequently such sale would in no way "prejudice the right of any other party. "Hence, there is no necessity of entering "into any inquiry regarding the disposal of "the objection advanced by the female objec- "tor. It is, therefore, ordered that this be "put up with the record."

On appeal by the claimant to the Judge, the Judge has reversed the Moonsiff's decision on the ground that the decree-holder has failed to prove a certain will, by which he wanted to show that the property belonged to the mother.

The judgment-creditor appeals to this Court, urging that the Lower Appellate Court had no right to entertain an appeal against an order passed by the Moonsiff under Section 246, and asks us to quash the order of the Judge, as having been passed without juris-

diction. We think that, if the first Court had passed a decision under Section 246, the Judge would have had no jurisdiction to entertain an appeal, but the parties aggrieved by that order should have resorted to the Civil Court for redress. But we find that, though the objection was brought under Section 246, the Moonsiff has declined to exercise his jurisdiction under that Section, and has not decided the case at all under it. But though the Moonsiff has not decided this case under Section 246, he has passed an order between parties, who are, legally speaking, not parties to the suit, in which the decree was passed; and therefore, even under Section 11, Act XXIII. of 1861, the Judge had no right to entertain the appeal. The decision of the Judge must, under either of these Sections, be set aside, as having been passed without jurisdiction.

Then, we have to see whether the decision of the Moonsiff is a decision under Section 246, and is a proper decision under that Section. We see that it is not a decision under that Section, and is not at all a proper decision in the case. He has refused to exercise jurisdiction given to him by law in these matters under Section 246. He ought to have proceeded to inquire whether the judgment-debtor or this claimant was in possession of the property by right of inheritance from the father, or was in possession as an heir of the mother, and ought to have passed a proper decision under Section 246. It is not sufficient to say that, because the right, title, and interest of Gooroo Soonduree are put up for sale, that therefore a claim by a party, who contends that the property belongs to her, and that she is in possession of it by a different right, should not be investigated at all. But as the claim appears to be a claim properly preferred under Section 246, the procedure of that Section ought to have been strictly followed. Although, therefore, we are bound to set aside the decision of the Judge as having been passed without jurisdiction, we also set aside the decision of the first Court, and direct him to try this case as between these parties under the provisions of Section 246.

Each party will bear his own costs of this appeal.

Jackson, J.—I would point out to the Judge that the mistake he seems to have fallen into is owing to his not being aware that a defendant intervening in the manner in which the present claimant did, has b held in several decisions of this Court to in fact, a third party. The Judge will this view of the law in 12 Weekly porter, page 333, and 6 Weekly Repo page 61, Miscellaneous Rulings.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ain *Judges.*

High Court—Right of appeal.

Case No. 380 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order p by the Subordinate Judge of Tir dated the 22nd August 1870.

Ramanoogra Sahoy and another (Judgm debtors), *Appellants,*

versus

Byjnath Lall (Decree-holder), *Respond*

Baboo Khettro Nath Bose for Appellan

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry for Respondent.

The circumstance of the High Court calli an appeal from the Court below, and trying it regular appeal, does not entitle the parties to a directly to the High Court in the proceeding execution.

Jackson, J.—The appeal in this case to the Zillah Judge. The circumstance this Court having, for special reasons, tho proper of calling up the appeal in the ginal case from the Court below, and try it here as a regular appeal, will not en the parties to prefer an appeal directly this Court in the proceedings in execution the decree passed in that case. The p ceedings will be remitted to the Zil Judge, who will admit the appeal and p ceed to dispose of it in the same manner if it had been originally presented in h Court.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Clauses 4 and 5, Section 23, Act X., 1859.

Case No. 1776 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Chittagong, dated the June 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the March 1870.

Kishen Chunder Goopto (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Dewan Ali and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar and *Okhil Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

Babbo Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty for Respondents.

Judge has jurisdiction to try an appeal in a suit arrears of rent under Clause 4, Section 23, Act X. of where plaintiff also sued for ejectment under 5 of the same Section.

Jackson, J.—We think this case must go to the Judge. He had jurisdiction to try appeal. This was a suit for arrears of under Clause 4, Section 23, and also for ment under Clause 5, Section 23 of Act of 1859. The Judge says that the tiff's claim for ejectment is preposterous the very face of it, and therefore he has jurisdiction to try the appeal. The tion of jurisdiction cannot, however, end upon the decision of the Judge whe the claim is correct or not. The ques of jurisdiction depends on the terms of law; and it will be for the Judge, after ing the appeal, to decide whether the tiff is entitled to arrears of rent, and is tled to ejectment.

There is a decision which shows that in some former cases a Division Bench of this Court held that, although in a suit which was substantially a suit for arrears of rent, a claim for ejectment had also been made, the mere fact of the insertion of such a claim in the plaint would not have the effect of shifting the jurisdiction of the Court of appeal; because, looking to that part of that particular case, such a claim was a mere nominal claim, and which, in fact, was never intended to be pressed as a real substantial claim, and which never had been pressed, in fact, in the Lower Courts. But there is no reason whatever for saying in this case that the plaintiff did not claim ejectment.

It appears to us also that the Deputy Collector has gone into questions of title.

The case must, therefore, go back to the Judge, who will take up the case and decide it. Costs of this appeal will abide the final result of the suit.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Private partition—Butwarra.

Case No. 1802 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Sarun, dated the 24th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Pursa, dated the 16th September 1869.

Ajoodhya Pershad and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Kristo Dyal and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Taruck Nath Sein for Appellants.

Baboo Kalee Kishen Sein for Respondents.

Parties holding separate portions of an estate, according to private arrangement previously made, are not in a condition to apply to the Collector for a butwarra when unable afterwards to agree among themselves.

Jackson, J.—We think the decision of the Court below was right. The parties were not in a condition to apply to the Collector for a butwarra, inasmuch as the land was not held in common, but, by private arrangement previously made, the parties were holding separate portions of the mouzah. The position into which they are brought by the previous arrangement, and inability now to agree among themselves, in consequence of which the whole of the co-sharers are liable to be sold out in consequence of default by one or more of them, is unfortunate, but it cannot be helped.

The special appeal will be dismissed with costs.

The 15th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Certificate of administration—Objections—Act XL. of 1858.

Case No. 463 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Tipperah, dated the 20th September 1870.

Kisto Kishore Roy (Objector), *Appellant,*

versus

Issur Chunder Roy (Petitioner), *Respondent.*

Baboos Nuleet Chunder Sein and *Kashee Kant Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Doorga Mohun Doss* for Respondent.

A certificate under Act XL. of 1858 having been granted to a party as guardian of an adopted minor, it was objected that the minor's adoption had not been legal.

Held that, as there was no doubt of the fact of adoption, whether the adoption should, on inquiry, prove legal or not, the certificate was rightly given; and as the objector did not claim to be appointed guardian, he had no *locus standi* to object to the appointment of another person.

Jackson, J.—The Judge seems to have been quite right to give the plaintiff a certificate of administration to the property as guardian under Act XL. of 1858. The petitioner to this Court objected to his doing so on the ground that the minor [illegible] have been adopted has not been [illegible] adopted. There seems to be no doubt, [illegible] the adoption should turn out, on inq[illegible] legal one or not, that he was, in fact, [illegible]ed; and, if adopted, it is not denied th[illegible] entitled to some property. It is po[illegible] that he may have to bring a suit for th[illegible]perty, but it seems to me that, whether [illegible] in possession of it, or he may have to [illegible] a suit, it is equally important that [illegible] should be some guardian appointed [illegible] present the minor's interests. The p[illegible] applicant does not claim to be app[illegible] guardian. He, therefore, has no *locus st[illegible]* the Civil Court to object to the appoin[illegible] of another person as guardian of the [illegible] The appointment of the guardian c[illegible] injure him in any way. We dismi[illegible] appeal with costs, sixteen rupees bei[illegible]lowed for pleader's fees.

Mookerjee, J.—I entirely concur.

The 17th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G[illegible] *Judges.*

Small Cause Courts—Jurisdiction—Questi[illegible] title—Incidental issues.

Case No. 1821 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passe[illegible] the Judge of West Burdwan, date[illegible] 2nd June 1870, affirming a decisi[illegible] the Moonsiff of that District, date[illegible] 11th February 1870.

Radha Churn Gangooly (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Gudadhur Bahadoor (Plaintiff), *Respon[illegible]*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *K[illegible]tur Mohun Mookerjee* for Appellant.

Baboo Bungshee Dhur Sein for Respondent.

A Court of Small Causes may try incidental que[illegible] of title which are indispensable to the decision of [illegible] claim before it, *e. g.*, a right to land on which dep[illegible] a party's right to cut trees.

A decision thus come to on a question of title, is [illegible] conclusive except as regards the claim in that suit.

ever, J.—THIS was a suit to recover es 200, the value of certain trees cut carried off by the defendant.

e defendant pleaded that the trees were roperty, and grew on the land of his ee talook.

th Lower Courts found that the decision former civil suit between the present iff and the party through whom the nt defendant claims settled the ques- of title to the land in favor of the iff, who got a decree for the whole nt sued for. The defendant now ap- specially.

preliminary objection is taken by the l respondent's pleader, to the effect s the suit was of a nature cognizable Court of Small Causes, no special ap- lies.

is quite clear from the record that the t at issue between the parties in this , and which point was decided by both er Courts, was the title to the land on ch the trees grew; and the amended t filed by the special respondent ex- ly asks for an adjudication of his title ainst that set up by the defendant.

e suit was not, therefore, of a nature izable by the Court of Small Causes, the objection is overruled.

or the defendant, special appellant, it is tended—

.)—That there was no adjudication of in the civil suit No. 33.

.)—That if there were such adjudica- , the Judge had no right to make it, in- ch as the suit was one of a Small Cause t nature.

And (3.)—That in any case the decision ld be no conclusive evidence of the ntiff's title. The Judge should have de- d on the whole of the evidence on the d.

With regard to the first objection, it is r that, although the Moonsiff in the ori- l suit did not consider the question of , the Judge on appeal did, and decided nst the claim put forward by the Burd- Rajah, through whom the defendant ms, and who had caused himself to be de a party to the suit under Section 73 of e Civil Procedure Code.

The second objection is untenable. It has been ruled more than once by this Court that a Court of Small Causes may try incidental questions of title which are indispensable to the decision of the claim before them. In the case in question, the right to cut the trees depended on the right to the land, and the Judge had power to try the question.

But, and this brings us to the special appellant's last objection, the decision thus come to would not be conclusive, except as regards the damages claimed in that suit. It could not be taken, as the Moonsiff and Judge have taken in this case, as absolutely concluding the defendant from putting forward his evidence, or as absolving the plaintiff from showing his title. It might probably be taken as evidence, but certainly not as conclusive evidence.

And as the decisions of both the Courts below have proceeded substantially on the fact that the question of title had already been decided by the judgment in the original suit, we think that those decisions must be reversed, and the case remanded for trial on the merits on all the evidence recorded by either party. Costs to follow the result.

The 17th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover,
Judges.

Remission to landlord—Remission to tenants.

Case No. 1885 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Midnapore, dated the 20th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 29th September 1869.

Goluck Chunder Mytee (Plaintiff),
Appellant,

versus

Parbutty Churn Doss (Defendant),
Respondent.

Baboos Mohendro Lall Shome and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Kamola Kant Sein* for Respondent.

A landlord receiving remission from Government on account of damage done to his estate by a cyclone is not, on that account, bound to allow a remission to his under-tenants, unless he received the former on the understanding or agreement that he would allow it in turn.

Glover, J.—THIS was a suit for arrears of rent due for the years 1272 and 1273, B. S., laid at Rupees 116-13-8.

For the defence it was pleaded that a 6-annas portion of the jote had been transferred with the landlord's consent to the late proprietor's widowed daughter, from whose representative the plaintiff had received the rent of the years in question; and that, on the remaining 10 annas portion, a part of the rent had been paid and part remitted.

Both Lower Courts decided in favor of the defendant. They allowed him a deduction of Rupees 43-12-6 on account of the 6-annas share, of Rupees 27-5-10 for remission, and Rupees 31-6 for rent actually paid, giving the plaintiff a decree for the balance only.

It is contended in special appeal that, as the defendant succeeded in a civil suit against the representative of the deceased widow in getting a decree for the 6-annas share together with mesne-profits from the year 1270, B. S., he is clearly liable for the rents of 1272 and 1273, B. S.; and that, with regard to the claim for abatement of rent, the plaintiff had the right either to grant or to withhold the concession.

The first objection is disposed of by the Judge's finding of fact. He finds it proved by the evidence that the plaintiff continued to receive the rent of the 6-annas portion from the party in possession of that share, *viz.*, the representative of the widow, for the years 1272 and 1273, so that he can have no claim to take the rent over again from the present defendant: and it matters not whether the defendant has or has not, so far as this suit is concerned, got a decree for the gross mesne-profits of the land.

But as regards the remission of rent for those years, we think that the Judge was wrong. The document, which recites the circumstances under which the plaintiff received a remission from Government on account of the damage done to his estate the cyclone, leaves it entirely to his di tion to grant his under-tenants similar b fits, or to withhold them. The only t he was bound to do was to register names of all those tenants to whom he lowed remission. The Judge says that, the landlord seeks equity, he must equity;" but this has really nothing do with the present case. For the de ant to succeed he must show that plaintiff, in getting a remission from Go ment, did so on the understanding or a ment that he was in his turn to gra mission to his under-tenants. So far this being the case, it is clear that the a of the plaintiff was left entirely unfet If the defendant wishes to have an a ment of his rent on any of the gro allowed by Act X. of 1859, he must b a suit for the purpose.

So much, therefore, of the Judge's sion as allows remission of rent for the in suit must be reversed. The rest of judgment will stand, and costs will b proportion.

The 17th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarka Mitter, *Judges.*

Section 227, Code of Civil Procedure—R adjudicata—Estoppel.

Case No. 1889 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Judge of Dinagepore, dated the June 1870, affirming a decision of Moonsiff of Thakoorgaon, dated the March 1870.

Dudsar Bibee (Plaintiff), *Appellant.*

versus

Shakir Burkundaz and others (Defendant *Respondents.*

Baboo Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty for Appellant.

Baboo Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty for Respondents.

HELD (Mitter, J., *dubitante*) that a suit claiming p perty by a title on inheritance is barred by Section and 7, Code of Civil Procedure, where plaintiff's cl on a title derived by gift has already been adjudica

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laintiff is bound to put forward all the titles which is existing at the time of his suit; failing to do so, estopped from adducing in a future suit a title he ought to have urged in a former.

ayley, J.—In this case the plaintiff sued 2-annas 6-pie share in 4 jotes in mouzah utteanna, and for the same share in a at Monee Moheshpore.

regard to the first claim, the co-sharers the plaintiff made defendants did not ar: but in regard to the claim in the jote onee Moheshpore, one Shakir Burkundaz, ing a right under a deed of sale from laintiff's mother, appeared and defend- suit.

e Moonsiff gave the plaintiff a decree share claimed in the 4 jotes minus ¼th, dismissed his suit as to the 2nd jote at e Moheshpore. The Lower Appellate affirmed the judgment of the Moonsiff, dismissed the plaintiff's appeal. The r Appellate Court held that the plaint- claim in regard to the jote at Monee eshpore had, on a former occasion, been ded against him by a competent Court, therefore it was now barred by Sec- 2, Act VIII. of 1859, and that the rest e plaintiff's claim was barred by limit-

ainst this judgment the plaintiff ap- specially, and urges that the Lower ellate Court is wrong in having applied provisions of Section 2 to the plaintiff's as to the jote at Monee Moheshpore, uch as the cause of action and the in the former suit were different from in the present suit.

appears, however, that, in the former , the plaintiff sued the co-sharer-defend- on the strength of a title. That title said to be derived from a gift from ntiff's mother. Again, a similar claim title is set up. But this time it is by on inheritance. I concur with that rt in holding that the plaintiff's claim title has, in fact, been adjudicated by a petent Court, and cannot, with reference Sections 2 and 7 of the Code of Civil cedure combined, be re-opened in the ent case.

The second ground pressed before us on cial appeal is, that the Lower Appellate rt has wrongly applied limitation to the ntiff's claim as to the 4 other jotes, with- investigating whether the plaintiff's ther was not in possession of the plaint- iff's share as his trustee. The answer to this objection can be found in the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court, where it records this finding of fact, *viz.*, "There is "no proof worthy of the least reliance as "to the plaintiff's age. She never pleaded "minority in her plaint, and it seems only "to have been an after-thought of her plead- "er at the time when the issues were "framed." It is not shown to us that there was any evidence other than what the Lower Appellate Court refers to as not reliable, and the sufficiency or otherwise of evidence is no legal ground for a special appeal. The alleged minority then not having been proved, the plaintiff's plea of her right on account of her mother's possession on her behalf as trustee entirely fails. I would dismiss the special appeal with costs.

Miller, J.—I am of the same opinion. I am not quite prepared to say that the provisions of Section 2, Act VIII. of 1859, strictly speaking, are applicable to this case, inasmuch as the cause of action on which the present suit is brought may be distinguished from the cause of action on which the former suit was instituted. But it is perfectly clear that the title on which the plaintiff has brought the present suit was in existence at the time when the former suit was brought, and she was bound to bring the latter suit on all the titles that were then in existence. She, for reasons best known to herself, did not choose to do so, and it follows, therefore, that the decision in the former case, so far as it relates to the ownership of the jote in Monee Moheshpore, must operate against her as an estoppel in this case. This principle has been applied by the Privy Council against a defendant, and I see no reason either in justice or equity why it should not be applied against a plaintiff. No special reason has been assigned by the present plaintiff to explain why she did not in the former case sue upon the title of inheritance now brought forward by her; and, in the absence of such an explanation, it would be obviously unjust and improper to harass the defendant by a second suit for the same property, merely because the plaintiff has now come forward upon a different title--a title which she could have and ought to have brought forward in the former suit without any difficulty whatever.

The other objection is altogether without foundation. The plaintiff's mother might

have been in possession jointly with her co-sharers, but the plaintiff was bound to show that that possession was held by her mother as her guardian, and this, in fact, was the only allegation by which she attempted to evade the operation of the law of limitation. The Lower Appellate Court has distinctly found that the evidence on this point is altogether unreliable; and it follows, therefore, that the possession of the plaintiff's mother, even if it were admitted as a fact, would not be sufficient to save her claim from the operation of that law.

This special appeal must, therefore, be dismissed with costs.

The 15th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Decree — Execution against mortgaged property — High Court's powers—Section 15, Charter Act.

Khorshed Ali and another, *Petitioners,*

versus

Chowdhry Wahid Ali and others, *Opposite Party.*

Mr. A. F. Lingham and *Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Petitioners.

Messrs. R. E. Twidale and *C. Gregory* and *Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf* for Opposite Party.

A party who obtains a decree enabling him to recover a mortgage-debt by sale of two mortgaged premises is entitled in law to proceed against both or either of the properties as he thinks proper.

The High Court cannot interfere under Section 15 of the Charter Act, where the Lower Court has not acted without jurisdiction, or where there is a remedy by a regular suit.

Kemp, J.—THIS is an application to this Court to exercise its powers under Section 15 of the Charter.

We have heard the Counsel for the petitioner, Mr. Lingham, at considerable length. It is unnecessary to go into the merits, for we may, by doing so, be pre-judging the case.

The only question we have to decide is whether this is a case in which we ought to exercise the powers vested in us by Se 15 of the Charter.

We are of opinion that neither of Subordinate Judges, by any order passe them, has divided the mortgage-debt. very clear that they could not do so, a fact, they have not done so.

The decree-holder having obtained cree enabling him to recover the mort debt by sale of the mortgaged premise was in law entitled to proceed against or either of those properties as he th proper. There has been no order pas this case without jurisdiction, and the we ought not, under the precedent found in Volume VII., page 520, Weekly Reporter, to interfere.

We also observe in this case th opposite party is the auction-purchase may be that he is an innocent purchas a valuable consideration.

The petitioner has his remedy in a lar suit. Not being a party to the o decree, he cannot appeal under Sectio Act XXIII. of 1861, but a regular s open to him.

It has been ruled by this Court where there is a remedy by a regular this Court cannot interfere by the ex of its extraordinary powers under Se 15 of the Charter Act. We, therefore, charge this rule with costs, five gold m being allowed as vakeel's fees.

The 17th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarka Mitter, *Judges.*

Registration—Kubooleut—Evidence.

Case No. 1952 of 1870 under Act X. of 1

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Officiating Judge of Rungpore, d the 4th August 1870, reversing a dec of the Deputy Collector of that Dist dated the 21st January 1870.

Kisto Kalee Moonshee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Agemona Bewa (Defendant) and anothe (Objector), *Respondents.*

h

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Respondents.

Where a kubooleut for one year contains a provision extending its term to more than that period, it cannot be admitted in evidence without registration.

Bayley, J.—There is no ground for this special appeal. The kubooleut is one for [illegible], and therefore it could not form the basis of an action for rent for 1275; but if, as now contended by the pleader for the special appellant, there was a provision in the kubooleut extending its term to more than one year, the document cannot be admissible as evidence without registration. The suit, therefore, on the basis of the kubooleut entirely fails.

It is next contended that the plaintiff ought to have gained a decree for the amount of rupees 70 admitted by Bunikoollah.

It appears that Bunikoollah was not made defendant in the present suit, which the plaintiff brought upon the kubooleut for rupees 126. Bunikoollah only appeared as a objector in the case, and said that he held land by a transfer, and was liable for rupees 70 only as rent. In this action, thereupon a kubooleut, not alleged to be made by Bunikoollah, but by the principal defendant, no decree could be given against Bunikoollah at all.

We dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 18th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Mookhtear—Suspension—Charge—Notice—Section 16, Act XX. of 1866.

Golab Khan, Mookhtear, *Petitioner.*

Mr. S. Vertannes for Petitioner.

Before a Magistrate can suspend a mookhtear from office, he must observe the requirements of Section 16 Act XX. of 1866, and furnish the mookhtear with a copy of the charge against him, and a notice fixing a day on which such charge will be taken into consideration.

Kemp, J.—It appears that the Officiating Magistrate of Midnapore has suspended Golab Khan from practice in his Court or in any Court subordinate to him in that zillah. The Judge forwards the letter of the Magistrate with the remark that he thinks the mookhtear deserves to lose his sunnud. Mr. Vertannes, who appears for Golab Khan, has drawn the attention of the Court to Section 16, Act XX. of 1865, and he urges that, under that Section, it was necessary for the Magistrate to send a copy of the charge to his client, and also a notice that, on a day to be therein appointed, such charge would be taken into consideration.

It appears from the record that the only notice Golab Khan received was one, dated the 16th November 1870, in which he is directed to show cause why he ought not to be suspended from practising as a mookhtear. No charge was set out in this notice, and therefore the requirements of Section 16 have not been complied with. We therefore direct that the Magistrate will proceed according to law, and send a copy of any charge he may wish to make, or that may be made against the mookhtear, to the mookhtear, and also a notice fixing the day on which such charge will be taken into consideration. The day appointed to be within a reasonable time, so as to give the mookhtear an opportunity to prepare his defence. In the meantime, pending the investigation, Golab Khan will remain under suspension.

The 20th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Ejectment—Mesne-profits.

Case No. 1789 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 24th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 26th August 1869.

Huree Nath Doss (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Shaikh Asmut Ali (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Appellant.

Mr. G. A. Twidale for Respondent.

A suit for possession with mesne-profits on the allegation that defendant, who had once been a tenant, was, notwithstanding the determination of his tenancy, holding on as a trespasser, does not lie under Act X. of 1859.

Jackson, J.—THE decision of the Judge seems altogether wrong. The suit is properly brought in the Civil Court. It does not lie under Act X. of 1859. It is a suit, not only for ejectment, but also for mesne-profits; and, on this ground alone, the suit could not be brought in the Revenue Court, as has been frequently held by this Court. The case will go back to the Judge for a decision. Costs of this appeal will abide the ultimate result of the suit.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur. The suit was brought for possession of land with wassilat. The defence was that defendant is in possession as a mortgagee of the whole plot of land, and that, as regards a portion of it only, defendant has a permanent ryotee tenure; and that, therefore, on both these grounds, the plaintiff cannot succeed in obtaining possession. No objection was raised as to the jurisdiction of the Court.

The Moonsiff decreed the claim of the plaintiff, finding that the defendant's allegations of an usufructuary mortgage and permanent ryotee tenure was not at all established, while the plaintiff has proved his case.

On appeal to the Judge, the same pleas were again urged by the defendant as were raised in the Court of the Moonsiff. The Judge, however, takes the objection *suo motu* to the jurisdiction of the Civil Court, and dismisses the suit of the plaintiff, holding that the action should have been brought in the Collector's Court under Act X. of 1859. Now, the question of jurisdiction should be determined from the allegations contained in the plaint, if the question is raised *in limine* before the merits of the case are gone through. Looking to the plaint, I find the plaintiff states that the defendant was a kursa ryot of the plaintiff; that his tenancy had been determined three years ago; and that, as, notwithstanding the determination, the defendant has retained possession as a trespasser, the plaintiff seeks to get possession with wassilat.

If these allegations are correct, as the Court of first instance has found them to be, I cannot understand how the plaintiff c have gone to the Revenue Court. Aft determination of the lease, and accordi the allegations contained in the plaint defendant was no longer a tenant o plaintiff. There is no relationship of lan and tenant between the parties, an plaintiff is right in coming to the Court, which is the only Court that can him full redress, and is competent to d all the pleas raised by the defendant. plaintiff is not to be at the mercy o defendant, and it is not competent t defendant to oust the Civil Court o jurisdiction, simply by stating that he ryot with permanent rights. The pl also asks for wassilat which a Re Court cannot award. For that reason the plaintiff was right in seeking the a ance of a Civil Court. I would also re the case for an adjudication on the me

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The 20th February 1871

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Dwarkanath M *Judges.*

Arbitrators—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2095 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Officiating Judicial Commission Assam, dated the 1st June 1870, ing a decision of the Deputy Commi er of Nowgong, dated the 22nd M 1870.

Moshahel Singh (Plaintiff). *Appellant*

versus

Konomutty Bewa and another (Defenda *Respondents.*

Baboos Rajendronath Misser and *Chu Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

The decision of arbitrators on a matter not in d ence between the parties, nor referred to them, is and void for want of jurisdiction.

Mitter, J.—THE question whether widow (Konomutty) was entitled to m

ce or not was not a matter in difference en the parties to this suit, nor was that ion referred to the arbitrators for deci- . Admitting, therefore, that the deci- of the arbitrators on the questions which expressly referred to them, and the ent of the Court, so far as it was passed cordance with that decision, is final conclusive, the decision of the arbitrators e question of maintenance must still be dered as null and void for want of juris- on, and the decision of the first Court, r as it confirms that portion of the award, necessarily fall to the ground.

, therefore, reverse that portion of the on passed by the Court of first instance, ich a sum of Rupees 1,800 was allowed defendant Konomutty and her daugh- The remainder of the judgment must good, as being in strict conformity to an which was passed upon matters duly red to the arbitrators. The result is, the plaintiff will be entitled to recover the defendant, Konomutty, the sum of ees 1,800, in addition to the property al- decreed to him by the first Court. ch party must bear his own costs of ppeal and of the Lower Courts.

The 20th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating ief Justice*, and the Hon'ble L. S. kson and W. Ainslie, *Judges*.

of Pleaders—Cazee's books—Sections 138 and 355, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 32 of 1870.

ular Appeal from a decision passed by e Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dated 4th December 1869.

gernath Sahoo and others (some of the Defendants), *Appellants*,

versus

d Mahomed Hossein and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents*.

Mr. J. W. B. Money for Appellants.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Respondents.

Order on the application by Mr. Money to be allowed to put in the Cazee's book, it not having been tendered in evidence in the Court below.

It is improper for a pleader to endeavour to influence a Court by reference to a course which another Court might think fit to adopt, or to the view which the Appellate Court might take of its proceedings.

A Cazee's book is not strictly an official record within the meaning of Section 355 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Before a document can be inspected under the provisions of Section 138, Code of Civil Procedure, the Court must see whether it comes under the description of a public record.

Norman, C. J.—I HAVE no hesitation in saying that we should not be exercising a proper discretion, if we were to admit the Cazee's book in evidence at this stage of the proceedings.

While the trial was proceeding before the Subordinate Judge, the book appears to have been sent for on the application of the plaintiffs, under the provisions of Section 138 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The book was in the Court of the Subordinate Judge, and it might have been used or referred to by the Court or put in evidence by either party at the time. The plaintiffs did not think fit to refer to it or to use it in any way, for what reason I do not know; but I can understand that the plaintiff's pleader might not have felt himself sufficiently strong to take up that book, and to prove that the entries in it are false.

On the other hand, the defendant's pleader knew that the document had been sent for and was in Court. If he desired to make use of it, it was his duty to have referred to it, and directed the attention of the Court to it. He had the fullest opportunity of doing so.

It has been suggested that the book was put in evidence. But we find that the book is not marked as having been admitted, as required by law. No reference is made to the Cazee's book anywhere in the judgment.

We have little doubt, but that the defendant's pleader deliberately abstained from referring to the book, or using it in any way whatever in the Lower Court. He had a difficult case to support, and it is possible that the defendant's pleader knew well that his difficulties would have been increased, if the book had been used and referred to in the Court below. The Court was presided over by a Mahomedan Judge of considerable experience. If the book had been then put forward, a full and careful inquiry into the

genuineness of the entries in August 1842 would have taken place before a Judge most competent to form an opinion on such a question, and in a place where evidence might have been within reach.

The case was tried on the materials which the defendants thought fit to make use of, and it is clear from the judgment of the Subordinate Judge that the Cazee's book was never referred to by the defendant's vakeel.

On the application of Mr. Money, the book was sent for, and we find, on referring to it that the entries relating to this transaction are the last entries at the end of the book, followed by a number of blank sheets. It is plain from the appearance of the book that, if put in, it would give rise to an inquiry as to the mode in which that book has been kept, which we are not in a position to make.

On the face of the book matters are apparent which, if we receive the book now, would give occasion to an inquiry upon which the Appellate Court ought not to be asked to enter, but which ought to have been entered upon before the Lower Court.

Mr. Money has alluded to what may take place if this case goes before the Privy Council.

I trust that this Court will do its duty, and that, without reference to any person out of doors, or to any other Court to which its decisions may go upon appeal, I desire to say that I think it improper to endeavour to influence this tribunal by any reference to the course which another Court might think fit to adopt. I have no doubt that the Privy Council will do what they think fit; and if they think fit and proper to send for the Cazee's book, they will exercise their discretion and judgment, and will send for it. I desire to say that this Court ought not to be told that some other Court will take any particular view of its proceedings, or even that there is a likelihood of the case being appealed.

It is not a legitimate argument to use before any Court that the Appellate Court will take a different view of the case, and I mention this, because it is not the first time that Mr. Money has made a similar observation.

Jackson, J.—I desire to express my c currence in the rejection of this book. T seem to be two ways of looking at the plication for its being now received annexed to the record—one, that it was and dealt with by the Court below, sibly in some such way as that hinted Mr. Money; but it is clear that it was so used. The second is that we should use of the discretion vested in the App Court under Section 355 of the Co Civil Procedure, and allow the appella put it in as an additional exhibit. do not think we ought to do so, and for this reason that the book in questi not strictly an official record; and befo should be in a position to refer to it use it with any effect, it would have established by the evidence either Cazee who kept it, or of some other who has been responsible for its cu It would be extremely unsafe to take book of this description, which purpo have been kept and used 30 years ago person not in the service of the Govern or responsible to the Government, and wards deposited in the office of the J and to deal with it as if it were und edly an authentic record. I do not therefore, we ought to deal with it Section 355.

Then we are asked to send for the b and inspect it under the provisions of tion 138 of the Code, which I have no applies to Appellate Courts as well Courts of Original Jurisdiction. But doing so, we should have in some way whether it was a document which come der the description of a public record. this book does not bear that character and upon such cursory inspection of book as we have given to it, it appears that it would be extremely unsafe to as a public record. The appearance book suggests a doubt as to whether it tained an entry of the document in que in the way in which it now shows it. der this Section, also, I think the app tion ought to be refused.

As to Mr. Money's allusions to the bability of an appeal to the Privy Cou I concur in the observations made by Chief Justice, having myself not u quently been witness to the use of langu of the same kind by Mr. Money.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

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The 20th February 1871.

Present :

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

iew of ex-parte judgment—Appeal—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 1701 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of West Burdwan, dated the May 1870. reversing a decision of Officiating Moonsiff of Bancoorah, d 31st January 1870.

see Dossee (*Pro-formâ* Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

ga Churn Paul and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

boo Nil Madhub Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Respondents.

ander setting aside an *ex-parte* judgment is final, the defendant proves that he was prevented from ing by sufficient cause, and applies within 30 days tempt to execute process. But an appeal will lie der has been made without jurisdiction, or if the tion was admitted after the prescribed time.

mp, J.—THE special appellant in this in Toolsee Dossee. She was made a *pro-* defendant in a suit brought by Doorga n Paul and others to obtain their re- e shares in certain moneys and also in in decrees.

s main object of this suit, though it was ibly brought to recover the shares of plaintiffs which had been appropriated e principal defendant in the case, Mo- Soodun, the managing member of the family, was to exclude Toolsee Dossee the share she inherited from her hus- , one of the members of the joint family, the improbable averment that she had up all right and title in her husband's e, which was of a considerable value, for sideration of a few maunds of paddy to given to her yearly in lieu of maintenance.

Modhoo Soodun alone defended the suit, Toolsee Dossee not appearing. Judgment went against Modhoo Soodun, and Toolsee Dossee was made liable with Modhoo Soodun for the costs only.

Toolsee Dossee then applied under Section 119 of Act VIII. of 1859; and having proved to the satisfaction of the Court that she was prevented by sufficient cause from appearing in the suit, the Moonsiff ordered a re-hearing of the suit in as far as Toolsee Dossee was concerned. The order was passed on the 29th December 1869.

The issues raised were: *1st.*—Whether Toolsee Dossee had relinquished her husband's share or not. *2nd.*—If such relinquishment be not proved, how far can the former judgment be reversed ?

On the first issue, the Moonsiff found that there was no proof that Toolsee Dossee relinquished her husband's share. The evidence of the witnesses of the plaintiff were considered to be tutored. The Moonsiff also dwelt on the improbability of Toolsee Dossee, who had a daughter and grandson, consenting to any such arrangement for the paltry consideration of a few maunds of paddy. The clear presumption in the opinion of the Moonsiff was, that the suit was brought in collusion with the male co-sharers of the plaintiffs to make away with the rights of Toolsee Dossee. Toolsee Dossee was, therefore, declared not to be liable for the plaintiff's costs in modification of the former decree.

On appeal the Judge, Mr. W. Tucker, reversed this decision. He observes that although no appeal lies from an order admitting a review of judgment, yet when the case has been decided in review, any irregularities in admitting the review may be urged (Section 363, Act VIII. of 1859). The Judge then says: "In this case the application for review was made fifteen months after the decree, and the applicant's statement that she was not aware of the decree was not proved, but was found to be false by copy of a petition presented by the applicant in another Court. The acting Moonsiff, Baboo Thakoor Dass, had, therefore, no power to admit a review of the judgment of his predecessor, Moulvie Bootul Tumkin. The order admitting the review was, therefore, without jurisdiction and cannot stand."

The judgment of the first Court was reversed with costs.

In special appeal the grounds taken are:—

1st.—That the order of the first Court passed under Section 119, Act VIII. of 1859, was final.

2nd.—That Section 363, Act VIII. of 1859, is not applicable to this case.

3rd.—That the Judge should have determined whether the petition alluded to was really filed by the special appellant or with her knowledge.

4th.—That there was no appeal against the order, and the reasons assigned by the Judge for setting it aside are not in accordance with the provisions of Section 119; moreover, the order appears to have been passed by the first Court upon good and sufficient grounds.

An appeal will lie against an order setting aside an *ex-parte* judgment under Section 119, if the order has been made without jurisdiction, or where an application has been admitted after the prescribed time.—Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 500.

Section 363, quoted by the Judge, does not, in our opinion, apply. In this case the Moonsiff gave excellent reasons for admitting the review. He found that the special appellant, whom he examined, had satisfactorily proved that she knew nothing of the fact of a suit having been brought against her, until the opposite party took out execution. The petition alluded to by the Judge, the Moonsiff found on the evidence of the special appellant, and the probabilities of the case had never been presented by her or with her knowledge or sanction.

It appears to us very clear that the suit was brought with the view of obtaining a decree to the effect that the special appellant had relinquished her right to her husband's estate, which is of considerable value, for the paltry consideration of a few maunds of paddy. She was made a *pro-formâ* defendant; and although the decree obtained as against her did not declare that she had made any such relinquishment, she was saddled with the costs of the suit.

This, therefore, was a judgment passed *ex parte* against a defendant who had not appeared, and Section 119 of Act VIII. of 1859 is applicable. The Moonsiff having given reasons, and, in our opinion, good reasons for being satisfied that the special appellan[illegible] proved that she was prevented by a suff[illegible] cause from appearing in the suit, and [illegible] application being within 30 days after [illegible] cess for enforcing the judgment wa[illegible] tempted to be executed, his order [illegible] Section 119 was final.

We reverse the decision of the Judge [illegible] remand the case for trial.

Costs to follow the result.

The 21st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G[illegible]
Judges.

Section 159, Act VIII., 1859—Procedu[illegible]

Case No. 44 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pass[illegible] the Judge of Tirhoot, dated the [illegible] September 1869, affirming a decis[illegible] the Subordinate Judge of that Di[illegible] dated the 15th April 1869.

Ajoodhya Doss and others (Plaintiff[illegible] *Appellants.*

versus

Bibee Misrun (Defendant), *Respond[illegible]*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *B[illegible] Churn Banerjee* for Appellants.

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Respondent.

Where an application was made at a very late [illegible] of a case to enforce the provisions of Section 159 [illegible] Code of Civil Procedure without proffer of any [illegible] that the witness was absconding, or keeping out [illegible] way for the purpose of avoiding the service of th[illegible] mons, the Lower Appellate Court was held to hav[illegible] justified in not postponing the case to secure th[illegible] tendance of the witness, although material.

Kemp, J.—THIS is a suit against [illegible] respondent, Mussamut Misrun, to rec[illegible] a sum of Rupees 2,998-5 annas, principal [illegible] interest, being the balance alleged to be [illegible] by her on a buhee khatta to the plai[illegible] who was the proprietor of a banking [illegible] in Mozufferpore, and who alleges that M[illegible] samut Misrun had an account current [illegible] his bank, and that the son of the afore[illegible]

amut Misrun carried on transactions r behalf from the year 1270 to Magh Fuslee. Mussamut Misrun admitted ngs with the plaintiff's bank, but takes tion to two of the items in the accounts plaintiff, namely, to a sum of Rupees , and to another of Rupees 800. Her tion was that her son, Moulvie Wullee , had received these sums on his own unt.

the first instance, the Courts below ed the plaintiff's case.

appeal to this Court on the 18th mber 1868, the case was remanded* by es Kemp and Elphinstone Jackson to Lower Court. We then observed that es not follow that, even if the defendant amut Misrun's son was acting as her of business, and was in the habit of g small sums for current expenses, ch a course of dealing would of itself rize the plaintiff, a banker, to advance m, that is, to Moulvie Wullee Alum, large sums as Rupees 3,000 on one oc- n, and Rupees 800 on another, on bonds. observed also that the very circum- e that these sums were advanced on lent some weight to the presumption they were advanced on the son's ac- t, but that, however that was, it ought proved by the plaintiff that they were nced on account of the mother; and we ted that the banker, the plaintiff, should called upon to depose to the circum- es under which these two sums of y were advanced, for, as observed by e mother's statement was that the son drawn these sums without any authority her, and that the banker who had been ncing them, being unable to realize them the son, had, in collusion with him, ged them to the mother's account.

remand, the Judge found on the whole e evidence that these sums were ad- ed to the son of Mussamut Misrun on own account, and not on account of his her.

e may observe, before proceeding to ment, that the plaintiff died very short- after or before the remand-order—it not certain which; at all events, he not been examined, and could not be mined. The gomashta, however, has n examined. The order of remand says either the plaintiff or his gomashta, some body acquainted with the transac- s, should be examined; and so far the plaintiff or his successor have acted up to the order of remand by examining the gomashta.

The grounds taken in special appeal are, first, that the Lower Appellate Court has misconstrued the remand-order in holding that it lays down that it is not sufficient to show that Wullee Alum was his mother's general manager, and that this fact at least establishes a *primâ-facie* case for the special appellant; second, that the Lower Appellate Court has misconstrued the evidence of the gomashta, and has not considered whether his evidence and the khatta-book do not establish the plaintiff's case; and third and lastly, that, as the order of remand distinctly directed the Lower Court to enforce the production of the buhee chittee or pass-book from Wullee Alum, the Lower Court was wrong in refusing to enforce his attendance on the application of the special appellant, merely because the application was not presented at the time of the first hearing, but after the remand; and that the Lower Appellate Court was, therefore, wrong in presuming against the *bona fides* of the plaintiff's claim from the non-attendance of Wullee Alum.

On the first point, it is very clear that the order of remand has been properly construed by the Lower Appellate Court. We directed the Judge most distinctly on this point, namely, that it was not sufficient for the plaintiff to show that Wullee Alum was his mother's general manager, a fact which is not denied by his mother; but it is contended in the latter part of the first ground of special appeal that the fact of his being his mother's general manager was sufficient, at all events, to establish a *primâ-facie* case for the special appellant.

Now, it is admitted that no general power-of-attorney appointing Wullee Alum as his mother's attorney is forthcoming, though it has been proved, and the Judge has found on the evidence of respectable people, that he was her general attorney. It appears, as remarked in the judgment of Mr. Justice Kemp remanding the case, that this lady, Mussamut Misrun, who resides at Patna, and is a secluded female, had estates in Zillah Mozufferpore, and that, for the purpose of securing the punctual payment of the Government revenue, and preventing all chance of these estates being sold for arrears, he had opened an account current with the plaintiff's banking firm, and her son was her attorney or manager for the purpose of

* 10 W. R., p. 376.

seeing that these sums were paid through the banking-house into the Collector's Court. But it is said that, in his capacity as her attorney, her son granted leases which were subsequently accepted by the mother, and that, therefore, he was, from that circumstance above shown, to have been her accredited agent, and that he had the power to raise money on bonds, and to bind her by his contract. We think that this argument is wholly untenable. It might be that he had the power to get from the banking-house certain sums on account of Government revenue, and it is also clear that he did so, and that his mother has not objected to the other items in the account which were expended for that purpose; but, as already observed in our order of remand, the fact that the son had already overdrawn the account of his mother in the payment of Government revenue ought to have made the banker more cautious in advancing large sums of money to the son, and charging the same to the mother without being in a position to prove that, at the time he made these advances to the son, he knew, or had reason to know, that the son was receiving this money on account of the mother. This he has altogether failed to prove, and therefore the first ground of special appeal is decided against him.

The second ground, namely, the mis-construction by the Lower Appellate Court of the evidence of the gomashta, has been shown in the course of the argument to have proceeded from a mis-construction of the Lower Appellate Court's judgment on the part of the pleader who drew the grounds of appeal, and this point was not pressed further by Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter, who conducted the case as pleader for the special appellant.

On the last point, with reference to the enforcement of the attendance of Moulvie Wullee Alum with the buhee chittee or pass-book, we may observe that this Court, in remanding the case, did lay considerable stress, and very properly so, on the attendance of this party with the pass-book in question. It appears that, on the 13th of April 1869, after the remand, the special appellant did apply to the Court to enforce the attendance of Wullee Alum. It was said in the course of the argument that this application was made under Section 159 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Now, under that Section, the party applying to enforce its provisions must prove that the evidence of such witness or the pr tion of such document is material, and the witness or rather person absconding keeps out of the way for the purpo avoiding the service of the summons. that the attendance of this witness wa terial has already been decided by this in its order of remand, and no doubt tendance was material; but we find th evidence whatever was given or atte to be given in proof of the fact that W Alum was absconding or keeping out way for the purpose of avoiding the s of the summons, a simple petition bein in when the arguments were commenced at a very late stage of the case without fer of any proof that Wullee Alum wa sconding or keeping out of the way purpose of avoiding the service of the mons. We, therefore, think that, und Section quoted, the Lower Appellate was justified in not postponing the ca that late stage, and was quite right in ceeding to trial.

All the grounds taken in special ap therefore fail, and the special appeal be dismissed with costs.

The 21st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwark Mitter, *Judges.*

Limitation—Dispossession—Grounds dismissal.

Case No. 2355 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Judge of Rajshahye, dated the July 1870, reversing a decision of Moonsiff of that District, dated the February 1870.

Hurro Chunder Chowdhry (one of the Pl iffs), *Appellant,*

versus

Gobind Chunder Moitro and others (Defe ants), *Respondents.*

Mr. J. S. Rochfort and *Baboo Nulat Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Respondents.

A plaintiff's failure to prove dispossession on the ticular date mentioned in the plaint is not a suffi ground for the dismissal of the suit.

h

itter, J.—We think the ground on h the Subordinate Judge has decided ase is a very narrow one. The mere e of the plaintiff to prove that he was ssessed on the particular date mention- the plaint is not of itself a sufficient d to justify the dismissal of the suit. plaintiff can prove that he has a title property in dispute, and that that title extinguished by the operation of the e of limitation, he would be entitled to ree notwithstanding his failure to estab- the allegation that he was dispossessed e date referred to above.

, therefore, reverse the decision of the Appellate Court, and remand the case t Court with directions to try—

y.—Whether the plaintiff, or the per- rom whom he derived his title, had in possession of the land in dispute n 12 years prior to the institution of suit.

dly.—Whether the plaintiff has a title to property, and

rdly.—Whether the defendants are en- d to a verdict on the ground of their

he costs of this appeal and of the Lower ellate Court will abide the ultimate t.

The 21st February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

cial Appeal—Damages—Section 6, Act XI., 1865—Section 23, Act XXIII., 1861.

Case No. 1865 of 1870.

cial Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Rajshahye, dated the 28th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Serajgunge, dated the 29th July 1869.

Brojo Soondur Bhadooree (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Eshan Chunder Roy (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboos Sreenath Banerjee and *Nulleet Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

A suit for damages not exceeding Rs. 500 on account partly for injury to reputation, and partly for loss in business and professional position, comes within the provisions of Section 6, Act XI. of 1865, and is not open to special appeal.

Bayley, J.—We think that no special appeal lies in this case under the provisions of Section 23, Act XXIII. of 1861.

We have carefully read the plaint, and we find that the plaintiff there not only pleaded injury to reputation, but also consequent loss in business and in professional position, he being a mooktear in the Criminal Court. The case, therefore, not exceeding Rs. 500 in value, comes within the provisions of Section 6, Act XI. of 1865.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 21st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Special appeal—Stamps—Section 350, Code of Civil Procedure—High Court.

Case No. 2082 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Rajshahye, dated the 6th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Nattore, dated the 19th May 1870.

Khan Mahomed Shaha (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Lall Mahomed and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Nulleet Chunder Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Ashootosh Dhur for Respondents.

Under Section 350, Act VIII. of 1859, it is not for the High Court to interfere when the decision of the Lower Appellate Court on the question of stamps does not affect the case on the merits.

Bayley, J.—We think the special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The first objection is one which does not affect the decision on the merits. It appears that the first Court dismissed the plaintiff's case on the ground that the hoondee on which he based his suit was a fabrication.

The Lower Appellate Court, however, accepted the hoondee as genuine.

We think that, under the provisions of Section 350, Act VIII. of 1859, when the decision of the Lower Appellate Court on the question of stamps does not affect the case on the merits, it is not for us to interfere.

The second plea is that, the hoondee and the receipt of money not being duly attested, the plaintiff's suit based thereon must fail.

Now, the Lower Appellate Court has found, as a fact, that the special appellant did receive the money. We see no such error in law as requires our interference in special appeal, and we, therefore, dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 21st February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Maps—Evidence—Stamps.

Case No. 2111 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Dinagepore, dated the 18th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Maldah, dated the 12th March 1870.

Kanuck Monee Dossee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Gopee Mundul and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Appe

Baboo Taruck Nath Sein for Respond

A map is not admissible as evidence unl stamped.

Mitter, J.—We see no reason to in with the judgment of the Lower C Both the Courts below have found th plaintiff has proved his possession as his title. As this is a finding of fact, w not disturb it in special appeal.

With reference to the map which produced by the defendant, we c concur with the Lower Appellate in thinking that the defendant was no petent to produce fresh evidence a late stage of the proceedings. Mo the document was not admissible as ev inasmuch as it was not stamped as it o have been.

The special appeal is dismissed with

The 22nd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G *Judges.*

Putnees—Kists — Sale for arrears — Cl Section 8, Regulation VIII., 1819—Spec peal— Pleadings.

Case No. 805 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision pass the Officiating Deputy Commission Maunbhoom, dated the 20th June 18

Darimba Debia (Defendant), *Appella*

versus

Nil Monee Singh Deo (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *M dronath Mitter* for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Bhowani Churn Dutt* for Respondent.

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We, therefore, think that these proceedings were proceedings to enforce the decree, or to keep it alive within the meaning of Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859.

We reverse the decision of the Lower Court, and decree this appeal with costs.

The 22nd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Onus probandi—Procedure.

Cases Nos. 1915 to 1918 of 1870.

Special Appeals from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, dated the 17th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Tumlook, dated the 26th September 1869.

Sreemuttee Dossee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Nidhee Koondoo (Defendant), *Respondent.*

The Advocate-General and *Baboos Ashootosh Dhur* and *Ram Chunder Mitter* for Appellant.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter, Kalee Mohun Doss, and *Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty* for Respondent.

In a suit in which plaintiff claimed 4 plots of land as belonging to his putnee, and defendant alleged that they formed part of the resumed land of a jote for which he had obtained a decree in a resumption-suit, and of which he had ever since been in possession, the parties went to trial on the issue whether the land was mâl as beyond the limits of the decree, or lakheraj as included in the chittahs according to which possession was given to the defendant in execution. On a consideration of what the latter had received under the decree, the first Court held that he was not entitled to retain the disputed land. The Appellate Court did not look beyond the plaintiff's chittahs.

HELD that the circumstances justified the first Court in deviating somewhat from the usual rule of law as regards the *onus probandi*, and that the course taken by it was most consonant with justice.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in these suits claimed four separate plots of land, as belonging to his putnee estates Doobachuttee and Boistub Chuck. The defendant alleged that they formed part of the resumed land of Khyra jote in mehal Gojae, for which he (defendant) obtained a decree in 1865, and of which he has ever since been in possession.

It appears that, in 1868, the plaintiff sued the occupants of the land in question under Act X. of 1859, but lost his case in consequence of the intervention under Section 77 of the defendant; and it is to get rid of the effect of that decision, and to establish his title, that the present suits are brought.

The first Court found that the lands were not the same as those given to the defendant by the resumption-suit, and that the plaintiff had proved his title to them. But the Subordinate Judge, on appeal, went on the general ground that the plaintiff had not been able to prove that the plots appertained to Doobachuttee; that the onus was upon him; and that he had failed to support it.

The objection taken in special appeal is that the Subordinate Judge has taken an entirely wrong view of the case; that he has paid no attention to the evidence on which the Moonsiff founded his decision, but has decided the appeal on an issue which was not raised in the Court below.

We think that this case has not been properly considered by the Subordinate Judge. As a general rule, no doubt, a plaintiff coming into Court to prove his title would have the onus distinctly upon himself, and it would be for him to prove his case. But there were circumstances in this case which necessarily altered somewhat the usual rule of law, and made the course taken by the Moonsiff the one most consonant with justice. It appears that, when the defendant got his decree for resumption, and got possession of the lands awarded on the 25th of September 1865, he gave a receipt specifying that he had received possession as per chittahs, which give the area and boundaries of the lands covered by the decree, so that there could be no difficulty whatever in finding out by a local inquiry whether the land now sued for did or did

is on that account, and also because she is not, under the Regulation above quoted, liable for the kist of Kartick at all, entitled to a decree in her favor.

If we were to hold otherwise, it is clear that the ryots of this mehal would have to pay twice over, that is to say, that they would have to pay the two kists of Assin and Kartick to the defendant if the zemindar's contention be correct; and they would also have to pay the same kists to the new putneedars according to the "bundobust" of the zemindar, and therefore they would have to pay twice over.

With reference to the one day of the kist of Aghran, it is unnecessary, as the kists of Assin and Kartick have been found to be not due, to express any opinion on this point; but we may say that it is not an arrear which would be due by the defendant, according to the terms of her kistbundee and of Section 20, Act X. of 1859.

We, therefore, reverse the decision of the Lower Court, and decree this appeal with costs of all the Courts and interest, in favor of the defendant, appellant.

The 22nd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Proceedings to keep alive a decree—Section 20, Act XIV., 1859—Construction.

Case No. 387 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Additional Judge of Hooghly, dated the 30th July 1870, affirming an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 15th January 1870.

Rajeshuree Debia and others (Decree-holders), *Appellants,*

versus

Raj Coomaree Dossee and others (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Anund Chunder Ghossal for Appellants.

Baboo Umbika Churn Bose for Respondents.

The rule approved by the Privy Council, that act done by a Court or an officer thereof, or *bonâ fide* by the applicant, for enforcing or keeping in force decree, satisfies the term "some proceeding" in Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859, was held to apply to the act of Nazir in conducting a sale and remitting the proceeds to the Collector, and to the act of the decree-holder in applying for and drawing out a portion of those proceeds.

Kemp, J.—We think that in this case the decision of the Lower Court must be reversed. The sale in execution of the decree obtained by the plaintiff took place on the 25th of September 1866. This sale was conducted by the Nazir in the mofussil, and it is clear from the Nazir's report, dated the 2nd of October 1866, which is on the file, and which we have perused, that after certain deductions made by the Nazir for the expenses of conducting the sale and his own barbardari expenses, he remitted on that date to the Collector the balance of the sale-proceeds. Now, it is admitted that the decree-holder took out the proceeds on the 4th and 6th of October 1866, and the present application to execute the decree is made on the 2nd of October 1869. There is, as shown to us, a conflict of decisions as to whether the mere taking out of sale-proceeds is a proceeding to enforce a judgment, decree, or order, or to keep the same in force within the purview of Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859; but there is a decision (which has been pointed out to us in the course of the argument) of the Privy Council to be found in Volume V. Bengal Law Reports, in the case of the Maharajah of Burdwan *versus* Bulram Singh Baboo and others,* in which their Lordships, referring to a case decided by the Court, approve of the rule laid down in the decision—the rule being that all acts done by the Court or by an officer of the Court or *bonâ fide* by the applicant, for enforcing a decree or keeping it in force would satisfy the term "some proceeding" in the 20th Section. Now, here we have the act of the officer of the Court who conducted the sale and who, by his report of the 2nd of October 1866, remitted the sale-proceeds on that day to the Collector; and we have the decree-holder within reasonable time applying for and actually drawing out on the 4th of October, a portion, and on the 6th of October another portion, of the sale-proceeds.

* 14 W. R., P. C., p. 21.

We, therefore, think that these proceedings were proceedings to enforce the decree, to keep it alive within the meaning of Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859.

We reverse the decision of the Lower Court, and decree this appeal with costs.

The 22nd February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Onus probandi—Procedure.

Cases Nos. 1915 to 1918 of 1870.

Special Appeals from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, dated the 17th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Tumlook, dated the 28th September 1869.

Premuttee Dossee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Nidhee Koondoo (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Advocate-General and *Baboos Ashootosh Dhur* and *Ram Chunder Mitter* for Appellant.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter, Kalee Mohun Doss, and *Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty* for Respondent.

A suit in which plaintiff claimed 4 plots of land as belonging to his putnee, and defendant alleged that they formed part of the resumed land of a jote for which he obtained a decree in a resumption-suit, and of which he had ever since been in possession, the parties went to trial on the issue whether the land was mâl as included within the limits of the decree, or lakheraj as included in chittahs according to which possession was given by defendant in execution. On a consideration of the chittahs the latter had received under the decree, the first Court held that he was not entitled to retain the disputed land. The Appellate Court did not look beyond the plaintiff's chittahs.

HELD that the circumstances justified the first Court in deviating somewhat from the usual rule of law as regards the *onus probandi*, and that the course taken by it was most consonant with justice.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in these suits claimed four separate plots of land, as belonging to his putnee estates Doobachuttee and Boistub Chuck. The defendant alleged that they formed part of the resumed land of Khyra jote in mehal Gojae, for which he (defendant) obtained a decree in 1865, and of which he has ever since been in possession.

It appears that, in 1868, the plaintiff sued the occupants of the land in question under Act X. of 1859, but lost his case in consequence of the intervention under Section 77 of the defendant; and it is to get rid of the effect of that decision, and to establish his title, that the present suits are brought.

The first Court found that the lands were not the same as those given to the defendant by the resumption-suit, and that the plaintiff had proved his title to them. But the Subordinate Judge, on appeal, went on the general ground that the plaintiff had not been able to prove that the plots appertained to Doobachuttee; that the onus was upon him; and that he had failed to support it.

The objection taken in special appeal is that the Subordinate Judge has taken an entirely wrong view of the case; that he has paid no attention to the evidence on which the Moonsiff founded his decision, but has decided the appeal on an issue which was not raised in the Court below.

We think that this case has not been properly considered by the Subordinate Judge. As a general rule, no doubt, a plaintiff coming into Court to prove his title would have the onus distinctly upon himself, and it would be for him to prove his case. But there were circumstances in this case which necessarily altered somewhat the usual rule of law, and made the course taken by the Moonsiff the one most consonant with justice. It appears that, when the defendant got his decree for resumption, and got possession of the lands awarded on the 25th of September 1865, he gave a receipt specifying that he had received possession as per chittahs, which give the area and boundaries of the lands covered by the decree, so that there could be no difficulty whatever in finding out by a local inquiry whether the land now sued for did or did

not come within the area of that obtained by the defendant in the resumption-suit. When the rent-suits were brought by the plaintiff, the Collector made a local inquiry (with a view to intervening on the part of Government), the result of which was that the lands on which rent was demanded were found not to be the defendant's resumed lands. Nothing came of this inquiry, and it may be said that the report of the Ameen would not be evidence against the defendant in this case; but if this be put aside, there still remains a considerable body of the very best possible evidence to show what the defendant received, and on a consideration of which the Moonsiff held that he was not entitled to retain the disputed land.

It appears to us that, as the issue was framed and decided by the first Court, it was not competent to the Subordinate Judge to make an entirely new case between the parties, and to call upon the plaintiff to prove his own case without reference to the evidence, which, from the nature of the defence, was brought prominently forward at the commencement of the suit. There was no objection taken in the appeal to the Subordinate Judge, as to the way in which the Moonsiff had drawn the issues; and we think, therefore, that the Appellate Court should have heard and decided the case upon the whole of the recorded evidence, as the Moonsiff did, and not have thrown out the plaintiff's case without looking to the facts on which the judgment of the first Court had mainly depended.

We may also observe that, on turning to the written statement of the defendants, we find that they rested their defence mainly upon the plea that the disputed lands were included within the lands for which they got a decree, and of which they got possession in execution of that decree. The defendants say: "The disputed land is not beyond the decree, and that they are in possession in execution of that decree." So that the parties went to trial on the issue whether the land was mâl as beyond the limits of the decree, or lakheraj as included in the chittahs according to which possession was given to the defendant in execution of the decree.

And the course taken by the Subordinate Judge is the more to be regretted, as the dispute could, to all appearance, have been most satisfactorily disposed of by using the evidence on the record. The plaintiff is the admitted owner of Doobachuttee and Boistub Chuck, and the defence is that the particular land in question was made over to the defendant in execution of his resumption-decree. Nothing could be easier than to prove this by a comparison of the dag and chittahs, which were made at the time of execution, with the disputed land. There is no doubt whatever as to what the defendant was entitled to get under his resumption-decree; and if the land now claimed is not included in the schedule of that decree and in the receipt of the 25th of September 1865, it clearly cannot belong to the defendant. It is contended that, however that may be, the plaintiff cannot take possession of any surplus without establishing his own title, and that the failure of the defendant to prove that the disputed plots were included in the decree will not give the plaintiff a title; but there is no question in this case of any third party's right, and the issue which was settled and tried was whether the land belonged to the plaintiff's mouzah or whether it formed part of the land given to the defendant by the decree of 1865.

The Moonsiff, after considering the whole of the evidence adduced on either side, held that the land was not included in the decree, and that the plaintiff had established his title. The Subordinate Judge did not look beyond the plaintiff's chittahs. He appears to have ignored entirely the large quantity of documentary evidence on which the Moonsiff came to his decision, and to have dismissed the plaintiff's suit because he disbelieved his chittahs. We do not think that this was the right way to dispose of the appeal. The Moonsiff had gone into the evidence on both sides, and the Appellate Court should have done the same. The peculiar circumstances of this case called in a more especial manner for such a treatment of the case, inasmuch as an examination of all the recorded evidence would have shown incontestably whether or not the defendant had any just claim to the land, and that would, under the circumstances, have given the greatest possible corroboration to the plaintiff's evidence.

We think that this case, as well as the other three cognate ones, must be remanded to the Subordinate Judge, in order that he may take the whole of the recorded evidence into consideration, and pass a fresh decision in accordance therewith. Costs will follow the result.

The 23rd February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating* *f Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *ge.*

Sureties—Withdrawal of security.

Case No. 167 of 1870.

lar Appeal from a decision passed by Recorder of Moulmein, dated the h June 1870.

oon Chit Poe (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

ee Chang and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Piffard for Appellant.

. J. W. B. Money for Respondents.

e a surety, without taking precautions to see to er application, permits the party for whom he is to get possession of money which, by an arrange- h that party and the co-sureties, had been in his (the surety's) hands for the purpose of ying the co-sureties, he loses his remedy the co-sureties to the extent of the security osed to be withdrawn.

te money is permitted to remain in the hands ies in order to its being applied to the purpose which they became sureties, it is the duty of between himself and co-sureties to see that ey is not misapplied.

man, C. J.—THIS is a suit which was t in the Court of the Recorder of lein, by one Woon Chit Poe against sons Wee Chang and Ahyan Shoke, over contribution in respect of money by the plaintiff, as surety for one Fee, from the defendants, his co- By a bond, dated the 21st of ber 1865, the plaintiff and defendants d themselves to be answerable for, and ke good, any sums realized by Awkin and for which he might fail to account nt to the order of Court granting to a certificate under the provisions of XXVII. of 1860, empowering him to t the debts due to the estate of one oon.

wsoon's estate seems to have been con- rable, and a large number of bonds and other securities came to the hands of Awkin Fee, who proceeded to collect in the assets of the estate. On the 19th of January 1870, the Court directed Awkin Fee to pay into Court the sum of Rupees 14,804. Awkin Fee failed to pay, was committed to prison for contempt, and on the 21st of March 1870 the plaintiff and defendants, as the sureties of Awkin Fee, were ordered to pay the sum of Rupees 14,804 into Court.

On the 4th of May the plaintiff paid that sum of money, and immediately afterwards brought this suit against his co-sureties for contribution.

The defendants, by their Counsel, contended that the plaintiff Chit Poe had received moneys belonging to the estate amounting to Rupees 9,325 and 12 annas. No written statement appears to have been called for, but upon this allegation an issue was fixed, which was as follows :—

"Has the plaintiff, since entering into the "surety-bond, received or retained out of "the estate of the late Mewsoon a sum "equal to that which he has paid under the "Court's order, or any other, and what "sum?"

At the trial the Recorder found that the defendants were liable each for one-third of the difference between Rupees 14,804 and Rupees 9,325-12 annas, namely, Rupees 5,478-4 annas; and he made a decree against each of the defendants for Rupees 1,826-1 anna with costs in proportion.

From that decision the plaintiff appeals to this Court, and he contends "that the "facts of the case, as disclosed upon the "evidence, do not constitute a valid defence "in law or in equity to the suit of the "plaintiff (appellant), or an answer to the "whole or any part of the claim made by "the plaintiff against the defendants, his co-"sureties."

The facts of the case, as we understand them, appears to be simple enough. We think there is very little real dispute or doubt on the evidence as to what those facts are.

We have a witness who speaks to a conversation between the parties at the time when the bond was entered into.

A person of the name of Bormiew says he "heard a conversation between Awkin Fee "and Chit Poe about the latter's security.

" There were four or five persons present at " the time the conversation took place. " Chit Poe said: 'The old man can do " 'nothing. We will take care of the money, " 'documents, and other things.' We were " then outside the Court. The parties went " inside the Court after that. That is all I " know about the matter."

Another witness, Kayn, takes up the story at this point. He says that he heard the conversation when Awkin Fee asked Wee Chang and Chit Poe to be his securities. The conversation which he heard took place inside the Court: it was in Mr. Macrae's Court (Mr. Macrae is the Judge of the Small Cause Court). The witness says: "I " was present. Ahyan Shoke said there " are two long jackets and one short jacket. " Let the long jackets be securities. Wee " Chang and Chit Poe said: 'There are do- " 'cuments, let them take that.' Chit Poe " and Wee Chang said to Ahyan Shoke: " 'Do not fear, we will take all the docu- " 'ments.'"

The next event in point of time is spoken to by Chysoo, who is the brother of Chit Poe and his partner. He says: "I remem- " ber when the parties to this suit became " security to the Court for Awkin Fee. It " was not long ago Awkin Fee gave me " some documents connected with Mewsoon's " estate. I made no list of the documents " or note of their receipt. I know Tomkin. " I cannot read English. I do not know " what the contents of the documents were. " I merely made a note in Chinese of the " number of the documents. I returned " some of the documents to Awkin Fee. I " returned all of them to him. He took " them one or two at a time. He did not " say what he wanted the documents for. " Sometimes he brought the documents " back. When he did not bring back the " documents, he deposited cash. I made " a note when Awkin Fee took a document, " and brought back money. Awkin Fee " gave me a list similar to No. 10, when he " gave the documents over to Chit Poe. " That list Awkin Fee took away long ago " when he took away the documents. That " was about 9 or 10 months ago."

Now, the evidence of these witnesses leaves no doubt whatever upon our minds. that at the time when it was proposed that the several parties should become sureties for Awkin Fee, it was arranged that Awkin Fee should deposit the bonds, papers, and other documents of title be ing to Mewsoon's estate with the su Awkin Fee himself says in speaki Mewsoon's estate: " I collected " money due to the estate. * * * " it to Soobwa (Soobwa is another na " Chysoo), the brother and partner o " Poe. * * * I deposited Rupees " or Rupees 9,000 belonging to the " of Mewsoon with the plaintiff after " the certificate. I think I got Rupees " odd from Tomkin. I have an acco " the same. I gave the amount to " Poe's partner. * * * * I gave " bonds and securities to Soobwa an " Chang when I came back from Ra " I had no chest to keep them in. " No. 10 (which is a list of securit " posited with Wee Chang) to Wee C " I do not recollect how long it was " got the certificate. I think 15 da " month. I gave some documents to S " the same day I gave the others to " Chang. I think I gave them the " ments 10 or 15 days after I got " from the Court. I filed my acco " Court."

Though he says that he had no ch does not say that that was the reason made over the documents to Wee Cha Soobwa.

Not only did he deposit the docu but, as stated by the witness Chysoo, he took away any documents to money due upon them, he brought b money, and deposited it with the p Chit Poe. When money was reali Awkin Fee by means of documents possession of Chit Poe or Wee Cha moneys collected were evidently b to them to be held on the same ter those on which the documents had deposited.

A considerable sum of money, amo to Rupees 9,325, was paid by Awki to Chysoo as money belonging to Mew estate. The items appear at page 11 printed paper-book. Of these items A Fee says: "I made seven payments to S " of moneys belonging to Mewsoon's " No. 11 contains the items." He afterwards: " When I paid the mon " Chit Poe, I did not tell him what it " for." It is clear that this last stat must be taken with a considerable a of qualification. In the first place, a of Rupees 2,000 was realized in this

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o says: "I remember giving to Awkin a document connected with Tomkin. brought me money, but did not say on account. He brought me Rupees o. I gave the document to Awkin Fee ame day I got the money."

do not think any reasonable person oubt that that money was the produce kin's bond. Then there is a sum of 2,067, which was the proceeds of a given by Awkin Fee to Chit Poe. cheque was a cheque for money de- with Wee Chang, drawn by Wee in favor of Awkin Fee, and forthwith by Awkin Fee to Chysoo. Both ms consisted of moneys belonging to te of Mewsoon.

have no doubt, notwithstanding the er by Awkin Fee, that the moneys y Awkin Fee and received by Chit e moneys handed over as of Mewsoon's representing securities which, by the ment between the parties when they ook the suretyship, were to be depo- ith Chit Poe, the plaintiff, by way of nity to him. That being so, we have to e surety having in his hands money for pose of keeping him indemnified— came of that money.

, as to two sums, one of Rupees 2,000 e other of Rupees 1,000, it is quite at they were, with the knowledge of ntiff, applied, not to the purposes of te of Mewsoon, but to the private s of Awkin Fee in connection with in Arrack Farm in which he was in- d. As regards the rest, the position plaintiff is this. He had moneys be- to the estate of Mewsoon in his moneys which, if he had chosen to act dent man, and taken the steps which open to him to take as a prudent man, protection of his own interests and his co-sureties, he might have applied seen applied specifically to the pur- f the estate. He might have refused t with the money except for the pay- f the debts, or the expenses attending ministration of the estate of Mewsoon; there was surplus, he might have seen ch surplus was paid to the persons d to it.

plaintiff, however, permitted Awkin misappropriate and apply to his own purpose 3,000 rupees out of the of Mewsoon. He permitted him to get possession of other sums without taking any sort of precaution to see that they were properly applied. He thereby lost security which was in his hands, and which, by the arrangement with Awkin Fee and the co-sureties, was placed in his hands, for indemnifying the co-sureties. According to the rule which governs the liabilities of sureties under the law as administered in England (see 2 White and Tudor, page 907), he would lose his remedy against the co-sureties to the extent to which he allowed these securities to be withdrawn from him. The rule is one founded on equity and good sense. But apart from the general rule as applied in England, upon the circumstances of this case, on the facts as they appear on the evidence in this case, we think that the meaning and intention of the parties in permitting the money to remain in the hands of the surety was that the money should be applied by the surety to the purposes of Mewsoon's estate; and it became the duty of each surety with whom money was deposited, as between himself and his co-sureties, to see that the money was not misapplied.

The result of that conclusion is that, as regards the Rupees 9,325 referred to above, the plaintiff, by parting with it, has lost his remedy as against his co-sureties.

But a point has been ingeniously put by the plaintiff's Counsel, Mr. Piffard, on the appeal before us, that plaintiff has a similar complaint against the defendant Wee Chang as regards the money which had been deposited with him.

Securities were deposited with Wee Chang. Wee Chang received and paid over various moneys, the accounts of which appear on the record. Of the moneys collected on account of the estate during the two years preceding, there was in his hands in October 1868 a balance of Rupees 4,397, and on the 3rd of October 1868 Awkin Fee appears to have written a letter to Wee Chang, of which the following is a copy.

"*Moulmein, 3rd October 1868.*

"To

"WEE CHANG,

"Moulmein.

"Gentleman,

"I beg to call upon you for the return "to me of the moneys I deposited with you

"at different times during the last two "years as per detail at foot.

"As I have already informed you, this "money is immediately and most urgently "required for the purposes of the estate, "to counteract the proceedings of Mah "May, and to dispossess her of the greater "portion of the estate of the late Mewsoon; "and if not furnished within a short time, "there will, in all probability, be a heavy and "irretrievable loss which must fall upon "yourself, as you are my security.

"The balance due by you is Rupees 4,397. "I cannot do more than again warn you, "which I do now, of the consequences of "your non-compliance with this demand; and "I also beg to give you notice that, if within "three days the money is not paid, I will "be compelled to ask the assistance of the "Court against you, and perhaps sue you for "breach of trust.

"By complying with this demand, &c., "you will be simply protecting yourself from "that heavy loss, which the contrary line "of conduct (hitherto pursued by you), if "continued in, will most certainly bring upon "yourself.

"Your immediate and particular attention "to this, and the favor of a reply, is request-"ed.

"I remain,

"Gentleman,

"Your obedient servant,

"AWKIN FEE."

Rather more than two months after this, namely, on the 16th December following, a letter was addressed to Wee Chang by Mr. De Wet, an Advocate at Moulmein, intimating that, if immediate payment of the sum of Rupees 4,397, being money in his hand belonging to Awkin Fee, was not made, legal proceedings would be commenced against him.

The result of these letters was that on the 22nd of December the whole sum of Rupees 4,397 was paid by Wee Chang, and it is important to see how that money was paid.

Two sums of Rupees 580 and Rupees 1,700 respectively were paid to Mr. De Wet apparently—for there is not a particle of evidence to the contrary, and the letter above quoted would show this—for the purpose of carrying on a litigation and conducting business connected with the estate of soon. As regards Rupees 2,067, th was transferred and paid to Awki and taken immediately from the ho Wee Chang to the house of Chit Po other surety, where it was to remain, have no doubt, for the purpose of ke the sureties indemnified.

Therefore, as regards Wee Cha seems to have done every thing that a could reasonably do to see that the was correctly applied for the protect the co-sureties, and for the purposes estate to which it should properly have applied. There is no imputation wh upon the conduct of Wee Chang.

The result is that the judgment Recorder is correct, and we affirm his with costs.

The 23rd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. A *Judges.*

Execution—Attachment—Maintenan

Case No. 405 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order by the Subordinate Judge of Sarun, the 12th September 1870.

Monessur Doss (Plaintiff), *Appellan*

versus

Beer Protap Sahee (Defendant), *Respon*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellant.

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry fo Respondent.

An order cannot legally be made for the prosp attachment and sale of a judgment-debtor's rig maintenance allowed by a decree; but in view instalment of such maintenance being about to be due, the Court may make an order for the non-pay of such instalment by the party chargeable and its receipt by the judgment-debtor.

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ckson, J.—THE question which arises in case is, whether a creditor holding a de- against a party who is entitled to an ance by way of maintenance under a e of Court, can proceed against such enance as a fund out of which his debt be satisfied.

is clear, on the one hand, that such sums ve already become due on account of enance may be attached and applied to ayment of debts by order of Court. It o clear upon the decided cases that an to attach and sell prospectively a right intenance could not be sustained.

ppears to me, however, that there is a s of making an allowance available, in rmity with the Code of Procedure, with- king the order which I have stated t legally be made.

e execution-creditor's difficulty in this is, that the debtor never allows the sum come available, that is, to remain due; y receiving it promptly from the Maha- , on whose estate the maintenance is a e, defeats the judgment-creditor, and ents his taking the sums accruing It seems to me, under these circum- es, that the Court may properly make rder, in view of any instalment of allow- about to become due under the decree, the Maharajah should not pay such to the judgment-debtor, and may forbid dgment-debtor to receive such sum, so e amount may either be paid to such as the Court may direct, or an ar- ment be made under Section 243 for collection or administration, if necessary, e amount of the maintenance.

course, in making any such order, the t would have to be guided both by a ideration of the reasons for which the enance was accorded, so that the party led to it may not be deprived altogether e means of supporting himself and his ily, and also to the claims of other cre- s.

think, therefore, that the decision of Subordinate Judge must be set aside, and he should be directed to take up the e *de novo*, and pass such order as the cir- stances may render desirable with advert- to these considerations. Each party t pay his own costs.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 23rd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Retention of a deed of sale—Right of suit—Joinder of causes.

Case No. 1877 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Chittagong, dated the 2nd April 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Howla, dated the 16th February 1870.

Tripoora Soonduree (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Russick Chunder Kanoongoe (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Bama Churn Banerjee* for Respondent.

Where a party contracting to execute a bill of sale takes an advance of a part of the consideration-money, and retains in his own possession the deed which he had taken away for registration, the other party is entitled to bring a suit to recover the deed, or to compel the defendant to execute a fresh document.

HELD (Mookerjee, J., dissentiente) that plaintiff could not sue for possession in the same suit.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case the plaintiff states that the defendant had contracted to sell to him a certain piece of land; that the plaintiff advanced a sum of 99 rupees, as part of the consideration-money which was fixed at 111 rupees, and he promised to pay the balance of the consideration-money after the registration of the bill of sale. The plaintiff also states that the defendant kept the kobala with him for the purposes of registering the same, but that he did not present the deed, as he agreed to do, to the registry-office, and has not got it registered. He, therefore, sues for a specific performance of the contract which the defendant had entered into with him.

The defendant denies the contract, denies the execution of the kobala, and in fact denies all the allegations set up by the plaintiff in his plaint.

The Court of first instance held that, under the Full Bench Ruling, reported in page 51, 10 Weekly Reporter, the plaintiff was not entitled to possession; but it gave a decree to the plaintiff for specific performance of the contract, namely, that the defendant should execute to the plaintiff a kobala, as he contracted to do. On appeal by the defendant, the Judge dismissed the entire claim of the plaintiff. He seems to consider that the Full Bench ruling alluded to above applies entirely to the circumstances of the case. He says: "It has been urged by respondent's "pleader that the circumstances of this case "are peculiar; that plaintiff actually obtain-"ed a kobala or deed of sale from defend-"ant; and that it was fetched fraudulently "from her relation by defendant, when the "said relation was endeavouring to have it re-"gistered at the registry-office. Under such "circumstances, the pleader urges that, even "if the Full Bench Ruling bars the obtaining "of a decree for possession and declaration of "right on specific performance, there is no "reason why a decree should not issue for the "restitution of the document fetched from "her with a view to a renewed attempt at "registration."

The Judge goes on to say: "This Court "is clear that there was no such relief "sought by the plaintiff in the Lower Court, "and that the asking of such relief was "never contemplated till the hearing of the "Full Bench Ruling came to light in this "Court." He, therefore, thinks that, under the enunciation of the law in the decision of the Full Bench, he can give no relief to the plaintiff.

On referring to the plaint in this case, we find that, although the plaintiff seeks to recover possession of the land which the defendant had contracted to sell, he also prays that the Court will be pleased to order a specific performance of the contract by requiring the defendant to execute a bill of sale. He does not sue upon the unregistered document, which cannot be under the registration law adduced in evidence before a Court of Justice. But the main gist of his action appears to be that the defendant, having contracted to execute a bill of sale of this property to him, has not done so, namely, that he has not given him a proper bill of sale, as he had promised to do. I do no that a claim like this falls within the view of the principle laid down in the Bench Ruling. I consider that, althou stated in this case that the defenda executed a deed of sale, what the pl really means to say is that, the defenda having delivered that deed to him, a having registered it, he has not carr the terms of the contract he entered in him. He is, therefore, I think, at lib prove the contract which was orig made by the defendant with him, a proof of that contract, I think, he is e to a relief. If we consider the law otherwise, and say that, because a doc had been executed by the defendant he has not, however, delivered to the pl that the plaintiff, from the mere fact defendant having put his signature to cument, cannot say that the defenda not performed his part of the contr would be opening a door to fraud of all and assisting a party guilty of fraud priving an innocent man of his re The case appears to me to be a clear It is a case of non-fulfilment of co entered into by the defendant wi plaintiff; and I am of opinion that, Act VIII. of 1859, the plaintiff is entitled to ask the Court to compel th fendant to fulfil his part of the co namely, by requiring the defendant to him a proper bill of sale. The mere e tion by defendant of a deed which h retained in his possession is no fulfilm the contract that he has entered into the plaintiff.

I would, therefore, remand the cas the Court of second instance, in order the other issue in this case, *viz.*, a whether there was a contract or not, be tried, and the case decided accordin the result of that inquiry. I cannot why, in such a case as this, the plai cannot also ask for possession to be g to him along with the kobala. It ca be denied that, after obtaining a kobala f the defendant, the plaintiff will be at lib to sue for possession of the land covered that deed. Looking to Section 8 of VIII. of 1859, I cannot understand then plaintiff cannot ask for possession specific performance in the same suit, why it should be necessary for him to stitute a separate suit for possession.

Costs to abide the final result.

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Jackson, J.—I also think that this case ...t to be remanded. The suit was on ...grounds. One was to recover back a ...ment, which the plaintiff alleges that ...defendant took away from him for a ...n purpose, but which he now falsely ...s lost. The claim is either to recover ...ocument, or, if that document has been ...y the defendant, to require the defend... execute a similar document. The ... prayer was for possession. I quite ...e with the Lower Court in thinking that ...uit for possession cannot at present be ...ed. But I do not see why the plaintiff ...d not recover the document. This ...ent is most valuable to him. It ...n his possession, but it was taken away ...e defendant for a certain purpose. It ... to me quite immaterial whether it was ...away for registration or taken away ...y other purpose. The defendant, ...g taken it away for a certain specific ...se, is bound to restore it, and the ...iff is entitled to bring a suit to recover ...Under these circumstances, I would ...d this case to the Lower Appellate ..., in order that it may try the question ...er the defendant did take away the ...ent or not. If, on inquiry, it is found ...e did take away the document, it will ... the defendant to restore it, or, if ...ary, to execute a fresh document.

...e argument which has been used in ...ase, that by doing so the Court would ...ing a document in evidence which is ...gistered, is wholly unsound. The do...nt itself is not used in any way what-

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The 23rd February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Limitation—Intermediate tenures.

Case No. 1892 of 1870.

...ial Appeal from a decision passed by ...e Judge of Sarun, dated the 1st June ...870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Pursa, dated the 20th January 1870.

Dhunookdharee Singh (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Gopee Singh (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Tarucknath Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Khetternath Bose for Respondent.

The purchaser of certain land claiming to receive the rents directly from the ryots sued to get rid of an alleged mokurruree intermediate tenure of 1257. It appeared also that plaintiff had been previously in occupation under a ticca lease extending to 1263.

HELD that, before defendant could successfully plead limitation, it would be for him to show that the plaintiff had notice of his claim to hold under a mokurruree tenure.

Jackson, J.—THE law of limitation appears to have been erroneously applied to this case.

The plaintiff is a purchaser from the owner of the land, and he claimed to be entitled to receive directly the rents payable by the ryots; and for that purpose he sought to get rid of an alleged mokurruree intermediate tenure set up by the defendant.

The date of the mokurruree so set up was in the year 1257.

The Judge finds that the plaintiff had not shown that he was in possession of the land in dispute at any time within 12 years next before the commencement of the suit.

It appears, however, that the plaintiff had been previously in occupation of this and some other land under a ticca lease, of which the term extended down to 1263, because his kubooleut to that effect was put in and was admitted by the defendant to be genuine. Now, it would be for the defendant, under those circumstances, to show that the plaintiff had notice that he held or claimed to hold under a mokurruree title set up, before he could successfully plead limitation. The Judge will find the observations applicable to this subject in the case of Rajah Saheb Perladh Sein,* reported in 12 Moore's Indian Appeals, page 330 of the judgment. It is not contended that there was any such evidence; and this being so, the decision of the Judge must be set aside. The case will have to go back to the Lower Appellate Court in order that it may try whether the defendant had a real valid mokurruree title or not.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

* 12 W. R., P. C., p. 6.

The 23rd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Joint decree—Heirs—Guardian—Liability.

Case No. 2088 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, dated the 13th July 1869, reversing a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 20th March 1869.

Brojo Mohun Mojoomdar (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Roodronath Surmah Mojoomdar (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kalee Prosunno Roy for Appellant.

Baboo Nuleet Chunder Sein for Respondent.

In a suit against heirs inheriting equally, a joint decree may be passed without determining the liability of each.

A widow defending a suit as guardian of her minor son cannot be made liable in her own person as well as representing the heirs of her husband.

Mookerjee, J.—In this case the plaintiff, who was a co-debtor with the defendants in a certain decree for costs passed against them, seeks to reimburse himself for what he had been obliged to pay in execution over and in excess of his share of the liability under the decree. The suit is brought against the heirs of one Ram Mohun, who are four in number. The first Court gave a decree for 100 rupees in favor of the plaintiff to be paid by the four sons of Ram Mohun jointly, and as regards the rest of the claim dismissed the plaintiff's suit. The plaintiff alone appealed to the Subordinate Judge, who confirmed that portion of the decree passed by the first Court. The Subordinate Judge also decreed the rest of the claim against Brojo Mohun.

Brojo Mohun appeals specially to this Court, and urges, firstly, that a joint decree should not have been passed against [illegible] and his brothers for 100 rupees, but th[illegible] liability of each of the four brothers s[illegible] have been determined in this suit. W[illegible] of opinion that this objection, even if [illegible] is any force in it, not having been [illegible] in the Lower Appellate Court, for there [illegible] no appeal on the part of Brojo Mohu[illegible] his brothers, the defendant Brojo M[illegible] has no right to urge before us. We [illegible] also of opinion that there is no force in [illegible] contention, even if it had been urged in [illegible] Lower Appellate Court. These four pe[illegible] are the sons of Kristo Pria, and being [illegible] doos, there is no question that all of [illegible] inherited equally, if they inherited anyth[illegible] from the mother.

Another objection has been taken to [illegible] decision of the Subordinate Judge, na[illegible] that he was wrong in making Brojo M[illegible] alone liable for the rest of the am[illegible] claimed in this suit. On reading the de[illegible] we find that it makes the heirs of [illegible] Mohun and Roop Ram liable for [illegible] But in that case the mother, Kristo [illegible] appeared as the guardian of Brojo M[illegible] alone; and therefore the right construc[illegible] of that decree appears to us to be th[illegible] heirs of Roop Ram and Ram Mohun [illegible] the only persons that were made [illegible] But of the heirs of Ram Mohun only [illegible] Mohun was the defendant in that case, [illegible] therefore Brojo Mohun was the p[illegible] who, along with the other heir or he[illegible] Roop Ram, was made liable for the [illegible] According to this construction of the de[illegible] Brojo Mohun would have been liab[illegible] make good the whole of the am[illegible] claimed in this suit; whereas, by the ord[illegible] the Subordinate Judge, he is made liab[illegible] regards 100 rupees along with his bro[illegible] and made solely liable for the rest o[illegible] claim. We, therefore, find that there [illegible] ground on which Brojo Mohun can imp[illegible] the order of the Subordinate Judge, whic[illegible] advantageous to him, inasmuch as he is [illegible] liable for an amount less than that for w[illegible] he would have been liable. We co[illegible] however, we cannot make out what [illegible] Subordinate Judge means by holding the [illegible] defendants liable as to 100 rupees as [illegible] of Kristo Pria defendant, and Brojo M[illegible] responsible for the rest of the claim as [illegible] son of Ram Mohun. Kristo Pria appe[illegible] in the former suit as mother and guar[illegible] of Brojo Mohun, a minor son of [illegible] Mohun. Kristo Pria, therefore, was e[illegible] liable as representing the estate of R[illegible] Mohun or was personally responsible.

not be liable in her own person, as well representing the heirs of her husband. re is nothing in the decree making her onally liable, for she was no heir of Ram un. But the other heirs of Ram Mohun, have been made jointly liable with the llant, have not chosen to appeal to us; we, therefore, cannot interfere with the passed against them.

he appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 24th February 1871.

Present:

on'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

cement of rent — Presumption — Section 4, Act X. of 1859.

se No. 1044 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

al *Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 3rd rch 1870, affirming a decision of the ty Collector of that District, dated th November 1869.*

unda Misser and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

nesh Singh and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Luckhee Churn Bose for Appellants.

r. R. E. Twidale for Respondents.

suit for enhancement of rent, the defendant is not to the presumption arising under Section 4, Act 59, where it appears that his tenure commenced date later than the permanent settlement, even proves payment at an uniform rate for 20 years.

okerjee, J.—This is a suit for arrears at an enhanced rate for 3 beegahs biswas of land. The plaintiff states e served a notice on the defendant at nd of Choit 1272, requiring him to pay at the rate of 4 rupees per beegah. The ndant pleaded that no notice was served him, and that he held a pottah, dated 1259, from Kadir Khan and Nadir Khan, the former proprietors of this land, and that he has been paying rent according to that pottah from that time downwards; and that the plaintiff, in 1270, admitted the pottah, and received rent accordingly.

This case was once before this Court in special appeal, and it was remanded in order that the witnesses to the pottah, who were in attendance in the Deputy Collectors' Court, might be examined. On remand, the Judge has examined those witnesses, and has changed his opinion, and has now found that the pottah is a genuine document. He then remanded the case to the Deputy Collector to ascertain what was the rate prevalent in the mouzah, and also suggested that the defendant might have an opportunity to show whether on any other ground the enhancement was barred. On remand, the Deputy Collector allowed the defendant to file several other dakhilas extending beyond 1259, and on proof of those dakhilas, found that, inasmuch as the defendant has proved that the rent has been paid at an uniform rent for the last 20 years previous to the suit, the enhancement was barred under Section 4, Act X. of 1859.

On appeal, the Judge affirmed the decision of the Deputy Collector, and the plaintiff comes up to this Court in special appeal, urging that, from the written statement of the defendant and from the pottah produced by him, it is clear that the defendant's tenure commenced only in 1259, so that he is not entitled, according to his own showing, to a presumption under Section 4, that the land has been held at the rent which he now pays from the time of the permanent settlement.

On a careful perusal of the written statement filed by the defendant as well as of the pottah, we find that this contention is good. The defendant nowhere alleges that his tenure was in existence previous to 1259; on the contrary, there are words which convey a clear and distinct meaning that he obtained the pottah in 1259 for the first time. The defendant's case, therefore, being that he has been in possession from 1259 under the pottah set up by him, we do not think that he is entitled to a presumption under Section 4. The latter portion of Section 4 says that, "unless it be proved that such rent was fixed at some later period." Now, the pottah and the written statement show that the rent which the defendant has been paying has been fixed

at some period later than the date of the permanent settlement. Therefore, the defendant cannot claim any such presumption in his favor; his own title-deeds and his own admissions show that his tenure commenced in 1259. The intention of the Legislature appears to us to be that, where a ryot states that his tenure dates so far back as the date of the permanent settlement, and pleads that he has been paying rent at an uniform rate from that time, he is entitled to the benefit of a presumption under Act X., if he can show that he has been paying rent at the same rate for 20 years next preceding the year of suit. But it is merely a presumption which the Legislature thought it necessary to give to a ryot, because the permanent settlement had been made at a very early period, and because it would be impossible at this distance of time for a ryot to show, by any strict proof, that he has been paying rent at the same rate from that time. But when from the defendant's own statement and his title-deeds it is apparent that his tenure commenced from a date later than the permanent settlement, surely he is not entitled to any presumption that the tenure existed from before.

The case must, therefore, go back to the Court of first instance for a determination of the other issues in this case.

Costs of this appeal will abide the final determination of the suit.

The 24th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Rent-suit—Receipts—Cause of action.

Case No. 1658 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 12th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Collector of that District, dated the 4th January 1870.

Huro Pershad Roy Chowdhry (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

Wooma Tara Debee (Defendant), *Respondent*.

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

Baboos Anund Chunder Ghossal and *Chunder Mitter* for Respondent.

Where rents are not sued for within 3 years fr end of the year for which they are alleged to b the fact that damages were awarded against the iff in a former suit for not giving receipts f year will not create a cause of action.

Norman, C. J.—It appears clear th plaintiff's claim is barred so far as reg the rents of 1272 for chucks 15 and The Judge, on appeal, has shown that plaintiff is in a dilemma, namely this, the rents for chucks 15 and 16 have paid or not. If the rent has never paid, there was never anything to pre the plaintiff from suing for the rent those chucks at any time within three from the end of 1272, and there is no tence, therefore, for saying that the suit now be maintained. If the rent of two chucks has been paid, there is an of the matter. The mere fact that dam were awarded against the plaintiff in a mer suit for not giving receipts for the 1272 will not create a cause of action revive that which has been extingui by payment. If that decision was neous—if the damages awarded for not gi receipts were calculated on a wrong pri ple, and involved a refund of rents paid may have been a ground of appeal from Collector's decision.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

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The 24th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

ey-decree—Execution-sale—Prior mortgage.

Case No. 2112 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of East Burdwan, ed the 29th July 1870, reversing a ion of the Moonsiff of Mungulcote, ed the 28th January 1870.

emoonissa Bibee and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

onnissa Bibee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Respondent.

perty having been mortgaged as security for y lent, the mortgagee sued on his bond and elected e a simple decree for money, in execution of he sold the mortgaged land entering up satision on his decree, became the purchaser, and got ion. He was afterwards ejected on a suit by ty claiming to hold on a prior conveyance from the ment-debtor.

LD that, having purchased with full knowledge, uld not afterwards bring a suit to have the mortd property declared liable, or saddle it with the ey due on his decree at the expense of an innocent d party.

Glover, J.—We think that this special appeal must be dismissed with costs. The plaintiff's ancestor got a mortgage of the disputed property from the defendant No. 2, as security for money lent, on the 24th Assar 1266. He sued on his bond, and got a simple money-decree on the 5th of April 1865. This decree he executed in 1866 against the judgment-debtor's land—the same as had been mortgaged—and himself became the purchaser of the property, and got possession, entering up, at the same time, satisfaction of his decree. After getting into possession, a claim was set up by the defendant No. 1 to the property under a foreclosed mortgage from the defendant No. 2, the deed of conditional sale being dated the 2nd Bysack 1268. This claim was decreed in favor of the mortgagee-defendant, and the decision of the Court below was eventually confirmed by this Court, on the 17th December 1868, by Justices Bayley and Macpherson. The case is to be found reported in the 10th Weekly Reporter, page 468. On this decision being given against him, the plaintiff brought the present suit to have the mortgaged property declared liable for his claim. The Subordinate Judge has decided this point against him.

We do not dispute the contention put forward by the special appellant's pleader that plaintiff had authority to bring a suit of this nature. Many decisions of this Court have settled that a party getting a money-decree upon a deed of mortgage hypothecating lands for the payment of the money due can bring a subsequent suit to declare that property liable under his mortgage; but in this case the facts are different. The plaintiff, having the option either to elect a decree binding the property or to take a simple decree for money, chose the latter. In execution, he got possession of the property as belonging to his judgment-debtor, and entered satisfaction of the decree. If, after that, he, having had full knowledge of what he was about, and knowing what it was he was purchasing, is afterwards ejected on a suit by a party claiming to hold the mortgaged property on a prior conveyance by the judgment-debtor, we think that he cannot then bring a suit to have that mortgaged property declared liable or saddle it with the money due on his decree at the expense of an innocent third party. A similar view has been taken by a Division Bench of this Court in the case of Shaikh Mahomed Basiroollah *versus* Shaikh Abdoollah and

others, reported in Volume IV., Bengal Law Reports, page 35 of the Appendix, * in which the judgment of the Court affirms the principle that a decree-holder must abide by the consequences of steps deliberately taken by him, that he cannot afterwards urge the plea of a mistake on his part, and that the principle of *caveat emptor* applies. We see no reason to dissent from this principle, the less so in the case now before us, as the plaintiff's bond is more than 10 years old, and his decree more than six.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

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* The 24th January 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Case No. 396 of 1869.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 12th June 1869, affirming an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 30th December 1868.

Shaikh Mahomed Bassiroollah (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Shaikh Abdoollah and others (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Luckhee Churn Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Nulleet Chunder Sein for Respondents.

Loch, J.—We think the judgment of the Court below is right. The decree-holder is not in a better position than any other auction-purchaser, a stranger. In this case, if the auction-purchaser had been a stranger, he would not have been entitled to recover his purchase-money, and this must be the case where the auction-purchaser is the decree-holder. We, therefore, reject this appeal with costs, sixteen rupees being allowed for pleader's fees.

Mitter, J.—I concur.

The 24th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G
Judges.

Lessor—Lessee—Mesne-profits.

Case No. 1893 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pa the Judicial Commissioner of Nagpore, dated the 10th June affirming a decision of the Moon Manbazar, dated the 7th September

Bheekumbur Singh and others (Defen *Appellants,*

versus

Raj Chunder Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respo*

Mr. G. A. Twidale for Appellants

Baboo Gopeenath Mookerjee for Respo

A lessor who prevents ryots from paying rent lessee when the latter comes to take possession for mesne-profits, even though he may not him lect the rents.

Kemp, J.—There are no grounds special appeal. The defendants a grantors of the lease to the plaintiff, a plaintiff's case is that, on his attempt take possession of the property leased by the defendants, the defendants in the ryots to withhold the rents, and th defendants appropriated the mangoes fish, and dispossessed him.

Both Courts have found that the def ants did induce the ryots not to come settlement with the grantee, the plai that they turned off his ploughs whe attempted to cultivate the land and prev the ryots paying rent to him, and the gave the plaintiff a decree with wassil be ascertained in execution of that decre

The defendants now appeal specially, ing that they ought not to be made liab wassilat unless it be clearly shown that collected the rents. The Lower Courts ing found that the defendants granted a

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is property to the plaintiff, and, after so, when the plaintiff came to take ssion, that they prevented the ryots g rent to him, they have been rightly ed with wassilat.

e wassilat will be, as directed by the Courts, ascertained in execution of ecree; and such amount of wassilat will arded as may be found on that inquiry re been appropriated by the defend-

e special appeal will be dismissed with

The 24th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Law—Inheritance — Byragees — Kept resses—Marfutwaree payment of rent.

Case No. 2142 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by the ordinate Judge of East Burdwan, the 7th September 1870, reversing a ion of the Moonsiff of Mungulcote, the 22nd January 1870.

Khoodeeram Chatterjee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Rookhinee Boistobee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Motee Lall Mookerjee for Respondent.

ndoo, by becoming a byragee, does not divest of all title in his family-estate, which, on his devolves on his heirs, and not on a kept mistress, gh she may have performed his funeral rites on of his being an outcast.

ment of rent marfutwaree confers no ryotee title marfutwar.

Kemp, J.—THE plaintiff in this case, the special appellant, purchased from Gunga Narain his malikee rights in certain lakheraj lands, and also his rights in a certain jummaie tenure. Gunga Narain, the plaintiff's vendor, purchased from Shiboo, who was the heir, as alleged by the plaintiff, of Nobo Krishto. The dispute before the Court refers to the jummaie land only, it having been found that Gunga Narain was the proprietor of the malikee rights by the Judge, and that decision has become final. In the first Court the Moonsiff held that Nobo Krishto was succeeded by his nephew Shiboo, that Shiboo sold his jummaie rights which he inherited from Nobo to Gunga Narain, and that Gunga Narain sold to the plaintiff; that Rookhinee was the kept mistress of Nobo; that she was not entitled to succeed as his heiress; and that, therefore, the plaintiff, being the purchaser of the jummaie holding of Nobo Krishto, was entitled to direct possession of the same, and he, therefore, gave the plaintiff a decree. There was no appeal, we may observe, by the plaintiff's vendors, who were the parties principally concerned; the appeal was on the part of Rookhinee alone. Rookhinee did not in any way impugn the genuineness of the bill of sale to the plaintiff. Her contention appears to have been, as shown in her petition of appeal, as to whether Shiboo was the heir of Nobo Krishto, and, as his heir, had any right to sell to Gunga Narain. Rookhinee appears to have been examined in the Court below, and in her examination she says that "I, as "heiress of Nobo Krishto, am dwelling in "the house; if the plaintiff's purchase be "good, he can receive rent from me, but he "is not entitled to eject me." The Lower Appellate Court has found that Shiboo is not the heir of Nobo Krishto, but gives no reason whatever for coming to that finding. The Subordinate Judge says that Rookhinee is the heiress of Nobo, and he apparently comes to this conclusion, because she performed the funeral rites of Nobo, who was an outcast. The Subordinate Judge also finds that the house in dispute was built by Nobo Krishto and Rookhinee jointly, and Rookhinee has been paying rent for the same. He, therefore, dismissed the plaintiff's claim with reference to the jummaie tenure.

We think that the decision of the first Court is a right decision, and that the decision of the Subordinate Judge is altogether wrong. As already observed, there was no contention on the part of the plaintiff's

vendors as to their having parted with their rights to the plaintiff, and Rookhinee in her examination does not seem to question the plaintiff's purchase, but she says that he is not entitled to anything more than the receipt of rent from her. The Subordinate Judge is clearly wrong when he says that Nobo Krishto and Rookhinee have jointly built this house, for, on referring to the evidence of Rookhinee, we find that she distinctly states that the house was built by Nobo. He is also clearly wrong in saying that Rookhinee is the heiress of Nobo. It is very clear that, under the Hindoo Law, Nobo Krishto's heir would be his nephew Shiboo. Nobo, by becoming a byragee, did not divest himself of all title in his family-estate, and therefore, on his death, his heirs would be entitled to inherit that estate, and not his kept mistress, although she may have performed his funeral rites on account of his being an outcast. The Lower Court is also wrong in laying any stress on the payment of rent by Rookhinee. The dakhilas show that Nobo Krishto is the ryot mentioned, and Rookhinee's name is merely mentioned marfutwaree, and those payments of rent by her would not confer upon her any title to the property. It is clear that Shiboo is Nobo's heir, and that he sold his rights to Gunga Narain; and Gunga Narain having sold to the plaintiff, the plaintiff is entitled to the jummaie lands, and to eject Rookhinee.

We, therefore, reverse the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and restore the decree of the first Court with all costs payable by the defendant, respondent.

The 24th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Authorized agent—Section 301, Act VIII. of 1859.

Kishoree Mohun Bose, *Petitioner*,

versus

Gour Monee Dossee, *Opposite Party*.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Petiti

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Opposite P

A vakeel may be a "duly authorized agent" the meaning of Section 301 of the Code of Ci cedure.

Norman, C. J.—I AM of opinion th rule must be discharged with costs.

It appears to me that the applicat vexatious. The facts are simply these

Gour Monee Dossee applied to the Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunna leave to sue *in formâ pauperis*.

She is a woman who, according t usages and customs of the country, not to be compelled to appear in p Her petition is signed and verified b self, and it was presented to the Co pleader of the Court. After the petiti admitted, or I should rather say re the Subordinate Judge issued a comm to examine the petitioner regardin merits of her claim and her property manner provided for by the 303rd S After the making of that order, Ki Mohun, who is the person against wh complaint was made—the person who be the defendant in the suit—prese petition, objecting that Gour Monee's p had not been presented by a *duly aut agent*, as required by the 301st Sectio prayed that the petition should be tak the file.

On that petition the parties were and the Subordinate Judge passed an stating that the 301st Section con nothing which prohibited a pleader presenting a petition on behalf of a pa

The petitioner then came up to this and without distinctly bringing it to notice of the Court by his petition that had been any adjudication by the S dinate Judge on Gour Monee's petition that the petition had been admitted determination and adjudication on this by the Subordinate Judge, obtained from a Division Bench of this Court upon the other side to show cause wh order of the Subordinate Judge adm the petition should not be set aside.

Now, I cannot help thinking that, if it been properly and distinctly brought to notice of the Court that there had been

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adjudication and determination by the ordinate Judge as above referred to, the would not have been granted. I think Court would have said: "If you are not isfied with the order of the Subordi- te Judge, if you have an appeal, go the Judge on appeal with a petition a proper stamp. If you have no ap- al, we cannot help you."

aboo Bama Churn Banerjee for the peti- er says that the petition to the Judge the order on it were read to the Court, certainly it is not mentioned in the peti- to this Court that there was any adjudi- n by the Subordinate Judge after hearing parties. However, a rule was issued an explanation was called for from the dinate Judge, and the Subordinate in his explanation says that he does derstand but that a pleader may be an rized agent under Section 301.

pon this, the other side was called upon ow cause why the order of the Subordi- Judge of the 12th of September 1870, ing the plaintiff to sue as a pauper, ld not be set aside.

e case coming on to-day, we have ht it right to call on Baboo Bama n Banerjee to support the rule, and to that the vakeel by whom the petitioner represented may not be an *authorized* within the meaning of the 301st Sec- It is hardly necessary to state that is nothing in the character of a vakeel h would disable him from acting as the of a pauper who has suffered an injury.

ction 301, dealing with paupers, accords em a privilege which is not allowed to r persons under Section 25. It provides "if the petitioner be a female, who, cording to the custom and manners of country, ought not to be compelled to pear in public, the petition may be ented by a *duly authorized agent* who y be able to answer all material ques- ns relating to the application, and who ll be liable to be examined in the same nner as the party represented by him ght have been examined had such party aded in person." A plaint under ion 25 can only be presented by the tiff in person, his *recognized agent*, or a pleader.

Now, what are *recognized agents* appears reference to Section 17. *Recognized nts* are a very limited class, but the petition of a pauper may be presented by a *duly authorized agent*—not such agents only as are mentioned in Section 25.

If the Subordinate Judge, dealing judicially with the materials before him, had come to a wrong conclusion as to the facts on the question whether the vakeel was the agent duly authorized by the petitioner, I think we should not have authority under Section 15 of the 24 and 25 Vic. 104 to deal with the question of fact as if it were before us on a regular appeal. The Judge considered that the vakeel was a duly authorized agent within the meaning of the 301st Section, and in this we think he was right.

It is said that the lady executed a vakalutnamah, which authorized a large number of vakeels to appear for her. (This does not appear in the petition, but it has been mentioned before us by Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee, and we accept the statement.) Two of these accepted the vakalutnamah, and one vakeel ultimately presented her petition. Now, it is not stated anywhere in the petition that that vakeel was not in a position to answer all material questions connected with the petition or relating to the application.

Was he an agent duly authorized or not? We can scarcely do otherwise than assume that, when he accepted the power to act for the lady, when he consented to present her petition, he must have taken the petition into his hands and read it. If his mind was constituted like that of all other persons with whom our experience has brought us in contact when undertaking the cause of a pauper, he would have taken care to ascertain from the petition that the facts stated in the petition were true and capable of being substantiated. No person, with the legal training of a vakeel, would take a case from a pauper without satisfying himself on this point. A regard for his own interest as well as for his own character would render it necessary that he should do so; and it cannot, therefore, be presumed in the present case that the vakeel who appeared for the pauper was not capable of answering all material questions connected with her application, and that he had not that amount of knowledge that is required in authorized agents under Section 305.

Speaking for myself, I may say that, in my opinion, the order of the Subordinate Judge is perfectly correct. I think that the course taken by the petitioner is one that has

been adopted by him for the purpose of embarrassing the poor woman to whom he is opposed. Although costs are not usually awarded in proceedings *in formâ pauperis*, I think that in this case the rule should be discharged with costs. We assess the pleader's fees at 2 gold mohurs, and the petitioner must also pay the amount of stamp-duty due to Government on account of these proceedings.

Loch, J.—I concur in the order made by the Chief Justice. The question, as to whether the party who presented the petition was a duly authorized agent, was one for the Subordinate Judge to determine, and on the objection raised by the petitioner, the Subordinate Judge did hear and determine that question, and certainly there is nothing in the finding to which the Subordinate Judge has come that is either contrary to law or improbable in itself. There is nothing to prevent a pleader of the Court being a duly authorized agent as described in the law; and as this has been found by the Subordinate Judge, there is no ground for asking the interference of the High Court in the manner which has been done in this case.

The 25th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Joint Hindoo family—Separation—Re-union.

Case No. 1989 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 31st May 1870, modifying a decision of the Moonsiff of Hurripal, dated the 31st March 1870.

Petambur Dutt (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Hurish Chunder Dutt and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bykuntnath Paul and *Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf* for Appellant.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Omendronath Chatterjee* for Respondents.

Where the partition of a family-property is made simply for the purpose of determining what the share of one member is, and after his secession the other members continue to live together and mess together, remaining, to all intents and purposes, as they were before, these others must be presumed to have re-united.

Glover, J.—It will be unnecessary to detail at length the circumstances of this rather complicated case, inasmuch as the special appeal is preferred only in respect of a one-anna share of the property. The plaintiff claims this as his portion of the estate of his deceased uncle Modhoo Soodun, on the ground that the family had separated, and never re-united so as to give the descendants of the re-united brothers, *viz.*, the defendants, a superior claim.

There is no doubt that the father of the plaintiff, Gunesh Ram, did separate from his brothers in 1224, B.S.

The Moonsiff, on this part of the case, found that the separation continued, and that Modhoo Soodun was not, at the time of his death, re-united. He, therefore, gave plaintiff a decree for his share of his uncle's property.

The Subordinate Judge considered that, after Gunesh Ram's separation, the three remaining brothers remained joint, and that Modhoo Soodun died a member of the re-united family, and that his heirs were consequently the descendants of the re-united brothers.

Against this decision Petambur, one of the sons of Gunesh Ram, appeals specially, urging—

(1.)—That the Subordinate Judge has come to his finding on re-union upon inadmissible evidence, the *angshonamah* not having been proved, and it not having been shown to have come out of proper custody; and that, if admissible, it did not prove re-union, but rather separation, and

(2.)—That there is no proof as to re-union after the separation in 1224, the evidence given by the defendants being insufficient to prove re-union according to Hindoo I-

With regard to the first point, we --- ve that the Subordinate Judge has not dec :d the question of re-union on the *ang. o-namah* alone, but upon the whole eviden e, oral as well as documentary; and as to ne deed in question, he remarks that its p-pearance is satisfactory; that it comes fi m proper custody; and that many witnes es

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speak to the fact that, after Gunesh Ram's secession, the rest of the brothers continued to live in the same house, in the same mess, and to all appearance in the same way as before the elder brother left them.

As to the *angshonamah* having come from proper custody, it seems clear that the Subordinate Judge was right. The document would have remained in the hands of those members of the family who remained joint, and it has been filed by their representatives. This document sets forth in detail the share of Gunesh Ram, the separating brother; and considering that it is said to have been executed more than 50 years ago, direct evidence in support of it was not to be expected. The plaintiff himself does not deny that a separation did take place in 1224, and there is considerable force in the Subordinate Judge's remarks that, if it were true that the separation affected all four brothers, the plaintiff could have filed his *angshonamah*, and so have supported his allegation. On the whole, we think that the Subordinate Judge had evidence before him, on which he could legally come to the conclusion that the separation of 1224 only affected the plaintiff's father, Gunesh Ram; and that the other brothers, Modhoo Soodun, Ramjee, and Gunga Narain, remained joint both in mess and in interest. No doubt, the Moonsiff who examined the witnesses came to a different conclusion; but whether the Subordinate Judge's estimate of the evidence were correct or not, there is no error in law in his judgment so far.

But it is contended that, admitting that estimate of the evidence to be correct, the Subordinate Judge is still wrong in law; that there must be direct evidence as to the joint nature of the interest; and that general evidence as to a family living in commensality is no sufficient proof that they were a joint family according to Hindoo Law.

The case of Jadub Chunder Ghose *versus* Motee Lall Ghose and others, decided by Mr Justice Wells on the Original Side of the High Court, and reported in 1 Hyde 21[illegible] is cited to show that a separation by one brother is a virtual separation of the whole family; but granting this to be so, the decision quoted lays down this also, "that when the remaining brothers continue "joint, they are supposed to have re-united."

[illegible]r, in this case it has been found by the Subordinate Judge that, after Gunesh Ram's secession, the remaining three brothers continued to live together and mess together, and to all appearance to hold all their interests in common, "*ekkutre and ekkhane*," and that, in fact, the partition of the family-property into shares was made simply for the purpose of determining what Gunesh Ram's portion was, and that, as regards the remaining brothers, the transaction was nominal only, the three remaining, to all intents and purposes, as they were before Gunesh Ram left them, and must, therefore, be presumed to have re-united. This seems to dispose of the second objection.

But if it were otherwise, the plaintiff, it appears to us, must fail on his own statement of facts. Supposing, as he alleges, that the separation of 1224, B. S., included all the brothers, and that from that date Modhoo Soodun remained separate till his death without re-uniting with the family, it is clear that the plaintiff's cause of action arose on the death of the widow of Modhoo Soodun, who, if her husband died separated, would have succeeded to a life-interest in his estate; and it is proved by the evidence that this lady died at least 17 years ago, so that the plaintiff's suit would now be barred by the Statute of Limitation.

The Subordinate Judge did not decide this point, although he found as a fact that the plaintiff had failed to prove any possession of the disputed property in the terms of his plaint, as he had already found that Modhoo Soodun was, at the time of his death, living joint in estate with his brothers, Ramjee and Gunga Narain.

We find, therefore, no reason to interfere with the decision of the Court below, and dismiss this special appeal with costs.

been adopted by him for the purpose of embarrassing the poor woman to whom he is opposed. Although costs are not usually awarded in proceedings *in formâ pauperis*, I think that in this case the rule should be discharged with costs. We assess the pleader's fees at 2 gold mohurs, and the petitioner must also pay the amount of stamp-duty due to Government on account of these proceedings.

Loch, J.—I concur in the order made by the Chief Justice. The question, as to whether the party who presented the petition was a duly authorized agent, was one for the Subordinate Judge to determine, and on the objection raised by the petitioner, the Subordinate Judge did hear and determine that question, and certainly there is nothing in the finding to which the Subordinate Judge has come that is either contrary to law or improbable in itself. There is nothing to prevent a pleader of the Court being a duly authorized agent as described in the law; and as this has been found by the Subordinate Judge, there is no ground for asking the interference of the High Court in the manner which has been done in this case.

The 25th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Joint Hindoo family—Separation—Re-union.

Case No. 1989 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 31st May 1870, modifying a decision of the Moonsiff of Hurripal, dated the 31st March 1870.

Petambur Dutt (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Hurish Chunder Dutt and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bykuntnath Paul and *Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf* for Appellant.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Omendronath Chatterjee* for Respondents.

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Glover, J.—It will be unnecessary detail at length the circumstances of rather complicated case, inasmuch as special appeal is preferred only in re of a one-anna share of the property. plaintiff claims this as his portion of estate of his deceased uncle Modhoo Soo on the ground that the family had separ and never re-united so as to give the scendants of the re-united brothers, *viz.* defendants, a superior claim.

There is no doubt that the father o plaintiff, Gunesh Ram, did separate his brothers in 1224, B.S.

The Moonsiff, on this part of the found that the separation continued, that Modhoo Soodun was not, at the ti his death, re-united. He, therefore, plaintiff a decree for his share of his un property.

The Subordinate Judge considered after Gunesh Ram's separation, the remaining brothers remained joint, and Modhoo Soodun died a member of th united family, and that his heirs were sequently the descendants of the re-un brothers.

Against this decision Petambur, on the sons of Gunesh Ram, appeals speci urging—

(1.)—That the Subordinate Judge come to his finding on re-union u inadmissible evidence, the *angshoma* not having been proved, and it not ha been shown to have come out of pr custody; and that, if admissible, it did prove re-union, but rather separation, and

(2.)—That there is no proof as to re-un after the separation in 1224, the evide given by the defendants being insufficien prove re-union according to Hindoo Law.

With regard to the first point, we obs that the Subordinate Judge has not decid the question of re-union on the *angs namah* alone, but upon the whole eviden oral as well as documentary; and as to deed in question, he remarks that its pearance is satisfactory; that it comes fr proper custody; and that many witnes

k to the fact that, after Gunesh Ram's sion, the rest of the brothers continued e in the same house, in the same mess, to all appearance in the same way as e the elder brother left them.

s to the *angshonamah* having come from r custody, it seems clear that the Subor- e Judge was right. The document d have remained in the hands of those bers of the family who remained joint, it has been filed by their representa- . This document sets forth in detail share of Gunesh Ram, the separating er; and considering that it is said to been executed more than 50 years direct evidence in support of it was not expected. The plaintiff himself does ny that a separation did take place in and there is considerable force in the dinate Judge's remarks that, if it were hat the separation affected all four bro- the plaintiff could have filed his *onamah*, and so have supported his tion. On the whole, we think that the rdinate Judge had evidence before him, which he could legally come to the usion that the separation of 1224 only ed the plaintiff's father, Gunesh Ram; hat the other brothers, Modhoo Soodun, ee, and Gunga Narain, remained joint in mess and in interest. No doubt, the iff who examined the witnesses came different conclusion; but whether the rdinate Judge's estimate of the evidence correct or not, there is no error in law judgment so far.

t it is contended that, admitting that te of the evidence to be correct, the rdinate Judge is still wrong in law; here must be direct evidence as to the nature of the interest; and that general ce as to a family living in commensa- no sufficient proof that they were a family according to Hindoo Law.

e case of Jadub Chunder Ghose *versus* Lall Ghose and others, decided by Justice Wells on the Original Side of igh Court, and reported in 1 Hyde is cited to show that a separation by brother is a virtual separation of e family; but granting this to be so, decision quoted lays down this also, t when the remaining brothers continue nt, they are supposed to have re-united."

ow, in this case it has been found by the rdinate Judge that, after Gunesh Ram's secession, the remaining three brothers continued to live together and mess together, and to all appearance to hold all their interests in common, "*ekkutre and ekkhane*," and that, in fact, the partition of the family-property into shares was made simply for the purpose of determining what Gunesh Ram's portion was, and that, as regards the remaining brothers, the transaction was nominal only, the three remaining, to all intents and purposes, as they were before Gunesh Ram left them, and must, therefore, be presumed to have re-united. This seems to dispose of the second objection.

But if it were otherwise, the plaintiff, it appears to us, must fail on his own statement of facts. Supposing, as he alleges, that the separation of 1224, B. S., included all the brothers, and that from that date Modhoo Soodun remained separate till his death without re-uniting with the family, it is clear that the plaintiff's cause of action arose on the death of the widow of Modhoo Soodun, who, if her husband died separated, would have succeeded to a life-interest in his estate; and it is proved by the evidence that this lady died at least 17 years ago, so that the plaintiff's suit would now be barred by the Statute of Limitation.

The Subordinate Judge did not decide this point, although he found as a fact that the plaintiff had failed to prove any possession of the disputed property in the terms of his plaint, as he had already found that Modhoo Soodun was, at the time of his death, living joint in estate with his brothers, Ramjee and Gunga Narain.

We find, therefore, no reason to interfere with the decision of the Court below, and dismiss this special appeal with costs.

g

The 27th February 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and W. Ainslie,

Judges.

Section 246, Act VIII., 1859—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1673 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Shahabad, dated the 26th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 20th July 1868.

Toofanee Doss (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mun Rakhun Roy and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry and *Gopal Chunder Mookerjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Kishen Succa Mookerjee and *Gopee Nath Mookerjee* for Respondents.

Where an unsuccessful claimant, under Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure, sues for confirmation of alleged possession and adjudication of title, the onus in the first instance is on plaintiff, and an important question in the case is, who was in possession at the time of the attachment.

Kemp, J.—We think that this case must be again remanded. It appears that the plaintiff sues on the allegation that he is a guzashtadar of the property in dispute. The disputed property was sold in execution of a decree, and was purchased by the decree-holders, the special respondents, as the guzashta holding of their judgment-debtor. The plaintiff claimed under Section 246, and was unsuccessful. He then brought a suit to establish his right. In the plaint, as is usual in such suits, he alleged that he was still in possession, but that his title had been prejudiced by the proceedings under Section 246, and therefore he sued for confirmation of possession and adjudication of title. In the first instance, the Court below tried this suit as if it were a possessory suit, and gave the plaintiff a decree. We remanded the case on the 2nd of December 1869. We told the Judge that, under Section 246, the plaintiff had to establish his right, and that the onus in the first instance would be upon him. We drew his attention to a case reported in Volume XI., Weekly Reporter, page 42; and we particularly directed his attention to important question in the case, namely, was in possession at the time of the at ment. The Judge, on remand, finds the plaintiff refers to shushmahee p receipts, and farkhuttees as the proof which he had to rely to establish his These proofs, the Judge observes, ha ready been overruled; that the shushm papers are not proof admissible in the and that the farkhuttees and receipts not show for what lands they were gr and therefore are of no value in the pr suit; and further that they have not proved by oral evidence.

In this case the decree-holder, as chaser of the rights and interests o judgment-debtor, and the plaintiff wh claimant under Section 246, both cl guzashta right in the lands in di Both parties must seek for proof of title in the zemindaree sheristah. plaintiff has filed a copy of shushmahee papers which he ob from the Collectorate. These shushm papers were delivered by the p ree of the pergunnah, and in them plaintiff's name appears as the gu tenant. These shushmahee papers, Judge observes, have been overruled we cannot find any order overruling and certainly the order of remand does overrule these documents. The Judge, fore, ought to have given the plaint opportunity of proving these shushm papers, and there is also oral evide the record and the local inquiry Ameen and Moonsiff. It may be t this case the plaintiff's title is one cupancy alone depending upon his possession, and therefore it was all the important that the Judge should have fully inquired into the point to which attention was called in our order of re as to who was in possession at the ti the attachment, namely, the plaintiff judgment-debtor. The Judge will stand that long possession, when establi is evidence of title. We, therefore, re the case. The Judge will give the p iff an opportunity to proving the mahee papers; he will take into con ation the whole of the evidence in the decide who was in possession at the the attachment was made, and find wh the plaintiff has proved possession for a time as would be sufficient to estab his title, independent of any pottah or title-deed.

h

The 28th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating ief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *dge.*

-profits—Section 196, Act VIII. of 1859—Costs of collection.

Case No. 305 of 1870.

ellaneous Appeal from an order passed the Judge of Jessore, dated the 23rd ne 1870, reversing an order of the onsiff of that District, dated the 9th tember 1869.

oroo Doss Roy (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

nd Moyee Debia and another (Decree-holders), *Respondents.*

boos Mohendro Lall Shome and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellant.

boos Mottee Lall Mookerjee and *Bungshee Dhur Sein* for Respondents.

re a suit is decreed as one for possession with profits, the decree-holder is not barred from ask- Court under Section 197, Civil Procedure Code, ire into the amount of mesne-profits in execu-

ecreeing mesne-profits, a Court has no right to w the costs of collection on the assumption that e zemindar can collect rents without costs.

rman, C. J.—It appears to us that ppeal must clearly be dismissed, except a very small portion.

e first point taken is that the original e contains no award of mesne-profits e period of the plaintiff's dispossession to the suit. It seems to us that this is istake. The decree is a very short and contains these expressions: "The is for possession with mesne-profits," it subsequently states that "the suit is eed," that is to say, the suit for posses- and mesne-profits is decreed. The ee goes on to make an award with re- t to the land of which the plaintiff sued ecover possession. It makes no provision o mesne-profits, and for a very good rea- because it appears from the judgment the amount of mesne-profits is to be ertained in execution. We think, therefore, that there is no ground for saying that the decree does not award mesne-profits to the plaintiff in such a sense as to enable him to ask the Court, under Section 197 of Act VIII. of 1859, to inquire into the amount of the mesne-profits in execution of the decree.

The second objection is that the Judge was wrong in not making any allowance on account of collection-charges. We think that the Judge has disallowed the costs of collection for a very insufficient reason. He assumes—and we think quite gratuitously—that because the defendant is a large zemindar, therefore he can collect rents without costs.

It appears to us, therefore, that the decree of the Judge must be modified, by deducting from the amount of wassilat allowed by him the collection-charges, at the rate of 10 per cent. as allowed by the first Court—a rate which seems to us to be reasonable.

The plaintiff presented a cross-appeal, on the ground that the Judge did not allow mesne-profits from the date of the suit to the date of delivery of possession. The answer to the cross-appeal is simply this, that no provision is made in the decree for the payment of any mesne-profits after the date of suit until the date of delivery of possession, as might have been done, if the Court had thought fit, under the 196th Section.

The result is that the decree of the Lower Appellate Court will be varied to the extent we have mentioned above, and, except as to that extent, the appeal of the defendant and the cross-appeal of the plaintiff will be dismissed. Each party will bear his own costs in the appeal and cross-appeal.

The 28th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Bona fides—Presumption—Execution.

Case No. 307 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Backergunge, dated the 21st May 1870, affirming an order of the Moonsiff of Burrisaul, dated the 20th February 1869.

Meer Lootf Ali and others (Objectors), *Appellants,*

versus

Aboo Bibee (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kashee Kant Sein for Appellants.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondent.

Honesty and *bona fides* must be presumed in all cases in the absence of evidence to the contrary, as well in all applications for execution as in every other instance, in which the conduct of a party to a civil suit or criminal prosecution is considered, and has to be dealt with by a Court of justice.

Norman, C. J.—It is clear that the judgment of the Judge must be reversed, and that process of execution in this case must issue. The question which has been argued before us is, whether the right to issue execution is barred by the 20th Section of Act XIV. of 1859.

Now, the facts appear to be these. The decree is a decree of the late Sudder Court, dated 1st June 1861. The first application to execute the decree was made on the 16th May 1864, and upon that a notice under Section 216, Act VIII. of 1859, issued calling on the defendant to show cause why the decree should not be executed against him. That notice is on the record, and the return of the officer who effected the service is endorsed on the back of the notice. We concur with the learned Judges who remanded this case, in considering the return to be *primâ facie* evidence of the truth of the facts stated therein. It appears from this return that the notice was taken by an officer of the Court to the house of the judgment-debtor; and, as he was not found, a copy was stuck up upon the door of his house. No further proceedings appear to have taken place upon that application for execution. From the date of service of that notice down to the time when the plaintiff applied for execution on the 16th July 1868, there is no pretence for saying that steps had not been taken from time to time to keep the decree in force.

The Judge, however, finds that "the "notice of July 1864 was clearly only "colorable." Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee, who appears to support the Judge's finding, is not able to point out any evidence on which that finding of the Judge is based, beyond the mere fact that the plaintiff did not choose to proceed further with the execution. We think that, when a step towards the execution of a decree is taken in a Court of Justice, it must be assumed to have been taken honestly and *bonâ fide*. Honesty and *bona fides* must be presumed in all cases, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, in a case of application for execution, as well as in every other instance in which the conduct of a party to a civil suit criminal prosecution is considered, and to be dealt with by a Court of Justice. seems to us that the presumption would arise in this is exactly the rever any inference adverse to the decree-ho The decree-holder, seeking to execute his cree, serves a notice under Section 216 cannot find the judgment-debtor. Is h order to preserve his right from being b by limitation, to bring in a fictitious li property which probably the judgm debtor does not possess; or if he does po the decree-holder does not know, and h means of knowing, where and how that perty is to be found? Is he to be drive issue out process of execution against person of the judgment-debtor, the effe which may probably be that he will ha pay the daily expenses of the judgm debtor whilst in the civil jail, and ge thing whatever from him? The infe that *we* should draw from the circumst which appear in this case is, that the de holder felt that it was useless to take further steps against the man who had bably concealed himself.

We think there is nothing to warrant inference of the Judge that the notic July 1864 was "only colorable," and not *bonâ fide*. That being so, the app tion for execution of July 1868 is w time, and the execution must proceed.

The respondent will pay the appellan costs in this Court and in the Courts bel

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The 28th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating C Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Ju*

Section 273, Act VIII. of 1859—Stipen Annuities—Discharge.

Case No. 398 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Special Appeal from an o passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergun dated the 22nd September 1870, rever an order of the First Subordinate J of that District, dated the 16th Septe 1870.

Nowab Asudut Dowla Reza Hossein Kh (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Haminsud Dowla Abed Khan (Decree-hol er), *Respondent.*

b

Baboos Ashootosh Dhur and *Kumolakant Sein* for Appellant.

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Respondent.

Judgment-debtor refusing to place at the disposal of Court whatever property he has (even though it stipend or annuity receivable from the Government), view to provision being made for the payment of dit, is not entitled to ask for his discharge under 273, Code of Civil Procedure.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a special appeal the decree of the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs. The facts appear to be these. judgment-debtor is a person enjoying is called a stipend or annuity of es 200 a month; it does not very y appear what are the conditions under he receives that stipend. The first finds that the judgment-debtor receives Government, and the Judge assumes e creditor cannot touch it. The judg-debtor, being arrested in execution of a e for a sum of Rupees 1,700, applied, un-he provisions of Section 273, Act VIII. 859, for his discharge, on the ground he had no present means of paying the either wholly or in part, and that he willing to place whatever property he ssed at the disposal of the Court.

e Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs has held the inability of the decree-holder to this stipend is no reason why the debt-ould take advantage of that circumstance, insist on retaining that stipend without g any attempt to pay his debt. The e has, therefore, directed that the debt-ould set apart a fixed portion of his nd, and authorize the decree-holder to that amount monthly; and he ordered if the debtor would not consent to this gement, the decree-holder should be at y to have his decree executed by im-ment of the debtor.

e are of opinion that the decision of the e is perfectly correct. It is one of the tions upon which the person arrested er a warrant in execution of a decree is e entitled to his discharge, that he is to illing to place whatever property he pos-s at the disposal of the Court. If, there-the debtor refused to place this stipend nnuity at the disposal of the Court in r that the Court might make provision the payment of the debt due to the de-e-holder in such a manner as it might m just and proper with reference to the umstances of the case, the judgment-tor was not entitled to ask the Court for s discharge under the 273rd Section.

The result is that, in our opinion, this special appeal must be dismissed with costs, which we assess at one gold mohur.

The 28th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Pauper-suit—Stamps—Claim of Government—Costs of suit.

Case No. 438 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Moorshedabad, dated the 23rd September 1870.

Pran Kristo Roy (one of the Judgment-debtors), *Appellant*,

versus

The Collector of Moorshedabad on behalf of Government (Decree-holder), *Respondent*.

Baboo Sreenath Doss for Appellant.

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for Respondent.

Where Government, after attaching a pauper plaintiff's decree in order to recover the value of stamps under Section 309 of the Code of Civil Procedure, consents to the sale of the decree in execution of another decree against the pauper, and obtains an order by which it secures the chance of any surplus arising from such sale, it cannot afterwards, when the sale is found to yield no surplus, be heard to say, as against the purchaser, that the decree was sold subject to its claim for stamps.

The amount of stamps in a pauper-case cannot be claimed as a lien or charge upon the decree in favor of Government, but is recoverable in the same manner as costs of suit; Government being, as regards its claim in such a case, in no higher position than an ordinary judgment-creditor.

Norman, C. J.—ONE Unnopoorna Dossia brought a suit as a pauper, and obtained a decree for moveable and immoveable property in suit No. 11 of 1869. The decree did not give costs to either party, but it contained an order that Government should recover the value of stamps under the 309th Section of Act VIII. of 1859 from the pauper plaintiff, Unnopoorna. The decree was dated the 22nd of January 1870.

Gunga Ram Paul, a creditor of Unnopoorna, in execution of a decree against

her, attached the decree which she had obtained in suit No. 11 of 1869. Subsequently to the attachment of Gunga Ram Paul, the Collector of Moorshedabad, on behalf of the Government, obtained an attachment against Unnopoorna's decree for satisfaction of the amount awarded to them in respect of stamps. On the 24th of June 1870, a petition was put in on behalf of Government, alleging that Unnopoorna's decree in suit No. 11 of 1869 had been attached in execution of the decree of Gunga Ram Paul, praying, amongst other things, that the sale might proceed, and after payment of the amount due under Gunga Ram Paul's decree, the surplus-proceeds arising from the sale should be made over to Government.

The decree of Unnopoorna in suit No. 11 of 1869 was sold in execution of Gunga Ram Paul's decree on the 4th July. It did not, however, realize sufficient to pay off the amount due to Gunga Ram Paul. One Pran Kristo Roy became the purchaser. The Government subsequently presented a petition for the attachment of the decree purchased by Pran Kristo for satisfaction of the amount due to them for stamps, contending that, notwithstanding the sale, Pran Kristo Roy, as purchaser of Unnopoorna's decree, was liable for the amount payable to Government for stamps.

The case came before the Officiating Judge of Moorshedabad, who held that Pran Kristo Roy, as assignee of the decree, must be held responsible for any sum due from the original decree-holder, Unnopoorna, to Government in respect of stamp-duty.

From that decision an appeal is preferred to this Court.

Two objections are taken by Baboo Sreenath Doss.

The first is, that the Government having consented to the sale of the decree under the execution of Gunga Ram Paul, and having obtained an order by which they secured to themselves the chance of any surplus arising from that sale, cannot be heard to say now, as against the purchaser at that sale, that the property sold was subject to any claim of Government under the decree made in its favor for the value of stamps.

We think that this contention is well-founded. Whatever may have been the right of Government to have prevented sale by Gunga Ram Paul, or to have in on any supposed rights as incumbranc the decree, by consenting to the sale became, in fact, the sellers themselv put it at the lowest. They permitted, if actually did not induce, the purchaser sent at that sale to believe that they w buy the decree free from all claims Government, who were to be satisfied the proceeds. If such a claim as that made by the Government should be all the greatest injustice would be done t nopoorna. If her decree, notwithsta the consent of Government to the sale their election to take payment out proceeds of the sale, was still, notwith ing the sale, to be treated as subject to for the stamp-duty, the price which be realized at the sale would be the va the decree less the amount of the i brance in favor of the Government; an out of the price, after that value wa ducted, Government would get paid. contention of the Government is well-fo ed, it would prove that, if the decree realized a sum sufficient to pay off the of Government, and if Government had paid in full out of the proceeds, Unnopo might be mulcted in double the amount to the Government.

We think, therefore, it is clear that Government is bound, as between t selves and other parties to that sale treat the sale as passing an absolute in in the decree free from any claim or c on the part of Government.

The next point urged by Baboo Sree Doss seems equally fatal to the right of Government. By the 309th Section, amount of stamps in a pauper-case is verable by Government, from any pe ordered to pay the same, in the same ma as costs of suit are recoverable. Now, of suit are recoverable by attachment execution. There is nothing in the 30 Section which makes the claim for amount of stamps ordered by the decre be paid to Government, a lien or charge favor of Government upon the decree the amount of such stamp.

The decree of Unnopoorna having be attached by Gunga Ram Paul before steps were taken by the Government, a sold by the permission of the Governme under that decree, we think it quite pl that the purchaser acquired a perfectly go

d

to the decree, and a right to enforce it manner he might think fit without any nce to the claim of Government.

e decree of the Lower Court is reversed pts in both Courts.

, J.—I concur, for it appears to me vernment in this case is in no higher than an ordinary judgment-creditor; the other creditor Gunga Ram attach- property of the debtor before Govern- he was, under the law, entitled to have ecree satisfied in full out of the sale- ds before any part of them could be o the other creditor. It matters very under such circumstances, whether ment consented to the sale by Gunga the property of the debtor or not.

The 28th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

tion-proceedings—Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859.

Case No. 483 of 1870.

llaneous Appeal from an order passed the Judge of Dacca, dated the 22nd mber 1870, affirming an order of Sudder Moonsiff of that District, the 11th July 1870.

dha Gobind Shaha (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

ndro Coomar Chowdhry (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

R. T. Allan and *Baboo Dwarkanath Sein* for Appellant.

ot Sreenath Doss and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Respondent.

e a decree-holder is referred to a civil suit by rt to which he applies for execution, and he ly carries on proceedings in order to get full der his decree, such proceedings must be held n furtherance of execution and as keeping the alive.

kerjee, J.—THE appellant in this is the decree-holder. He obtained a for possession of certain land in July 1863. This decree was confirmed on appeal in January 1864, and further confirmed on special appeal in November 1864. The decree-holder applied for execution of his decree on the 9th June 1864, while the appeal in the High Court was pending. The decree-holder in that application stated that the judgment-debtor had, after the passing of the decree, built a pucca house on a portion of the disputed land, and he prayed that possession be given him by the demolition of the building. The Moonsiff, before whom the execution-proceedings were pending, referred him to a regular suit.

The decree-holder went to the Civil Court, praying that a complete relief under his decree might be granted to him by ordering the demolition of the building erected by the judgment-debtor. This case was pending for some time in the Zillah Courts; but ultimately, an appeal being preferred to the High Court, this Court held, on the 11th April 1867, that the decree-holder could have obtained relief in the execution-department, and that there was no necessity for him to institute a separate suit. The High Court accordingly dismissed that suit.

The decree-holder then applied to the Moonsiff for the execution of the decree by the removal of the pucca house. Both the Lower Courts have held that the execution is barred, refusing to take into account the proceedings taken in the regular suit as proceedings to keep the decree in force. The Lower Appellate Court says: "The only "question is whether the regular suit, which, "at the instance of the Moonsiff, the appel- "lant instituted, can in any way be made to "keep the decree in force. Strictly speaking, "of course, it cannot, but I think also the "appellant can take no benefit from his "regular suit, because it was open to him to "appeal against the Moonsiff's order refer- "ring him to a regular suit."

Although it is correct to say that the decree-holder could have appealed, but did not appeal, still the proceedings that he has taken in the Civil Court to give effect to his decree are proceedings to keep the decree in force. We find that the decree-holder applied to the Moonsiff to give him possession of the land by the removal of the building. The Moonsiff, not knowing his duty, refused to give him possession, and referred him to a civil suit. The decree-holder went to the Civil Court, and the only object in going to the Civil Court was to have the complete

benefit of the decree he obtained against the defendant. The High Court thought that it was unnecessary for him to bring a separate suit. But that does not show that the proceedings were not *bonâ fide*, for there is nothing to show that he did not take those proceedings to keep the decree alive.

I would, therefore, hold that the proceedings taken in that suit were proceedings under Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859, to keep the decree in force; and as this application is within three years of the last order passed in those proceedings, the decree is not barred by limitation. I would, therefore, remand the case to the Court below for adjudication on the merits of the application. I think the decree-holder should have his costs, which will be three gold mohurs.

Jackson, J.—I concur. I also think that in a case where the decree-holder was referred to a civil suit by the Court, and he accordingly carried on proceedings in order to get full relief under his decree, such proceedings ought, in justice, to be held proceedings in furtherance of the execution of the decree.

The 28th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Res adjudicata—Onus probandi.

Case No. 2182 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, dated the 4th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoom, dated the 27th November 1869.

Rajah Mokoond Narain Deo (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Jonardun Dey Burnick (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Gopeenath Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Tarucknath Paleet for Respondent.

The cause of action between two parties cannot be said to be a *res adjudicata*, if the first case was disposed of on appeal on a purely technical point, even though the suit was decided on its merits in the Court of first instance.

In a suit for possession where plaintiff claims a pottah, the execution of which is not denied b fendant, whose contention is that the lessor h power to grant it, the onus is on the defendant to his plea.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this sues for possession of a mouzah called with mesne-profits from the year 12 1275 inclusive. He claimed under a m ruree pottah granted by the defend ancestor, Rajah Hurry Narain Deo, 25th Bysack 1252 to one Bisho Nath Lalla, who transferred the holding plaintiff's elder brother, Sheodursun, in The plaintiff alleges that he remained ly with Sheodursun in possession of lands till the year 1265, when the defe collected rents direct from the ryots, a dispossessed him.

It appears that, in 1864, the pl brought a suit alleging ouster on th of the defendant with reference to lands; and although he got a decree first Court, his case was dismissed in a without going into the merits, on the g that, so long as the widow of his b Sheodursun was alive, he had no ri bring the suit. The present suit was b on the 5th of April 1869. The defe alleged that the matter was *res adjud* having already been decided betwee parties in the suit of 1864; that the p iff had not been in possession with years, and that limitation barred his that his mokurruree title was a fraud one, and, even if genuine, would be in inasmuch as the grantor thereof had n power to give it. Both the Lower C have decided on all points in favor o plaintiff.

It is contended in special appeal, first, this suit comes under the provisions Section 2 of Act VIII. of 1859, the subj matter being a *res adjudicata* which c not form the subject of a second suit. objection appears to us altogether u able.

The original suit brought by the pla against the defendant, no doubt, was dec on the merits in the Court of first inst (that decision being in plaintiff's fa but the Judge, on appeal, disposed of case purely on a technical point, so tha between the plaintiff and defendant, there been no cause of action similar to the pre one already heard and determined by a C of competent jurisdiction.

e second objection is that the Judicial missioner has decided the issue of limi- on no evidence at all. This objection, o think, is worthless, as the Judge has on the evidence that the rent for disputed lands was paid to the de- t's tehseeldar, and that the receipts made over to the plaintiff, and this be some evidence on which the Judge presume that the plaintiff had paid rents, and was in possession by doing It is said that these receipts have not attested; but even if it were so, this not affect the credibility of the oral ce, which was to the effect that the was collected from the plaintiff and s given to him; and whether the re- given to him are the receipts now r other receipts does not affect the n at issue. The question was whe- e plaintiff paid any rent and got any ts; and if he did so, whether that was ce of possession.

third and last objection with refer- to the validity of the pottah has been disposed of by both the Courts below. Judge has found as a fact that the de- t does not deny the execution of the , but that his objection is that it was by somebody who had no power to it. That being so, the Judge was not in throwing the onus on the defend- prove his special plea. He failed to , and the point was, therefore, properly d against him.

the grounds taken in special appeal, re, fail, and the special appeal is dis- d with costs.

The 1st March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

ion 230, Act VIII. of 1859—Procedure.

Case No. 407 of 1870.

llaneous Appeal from an order passed the Officiating Judicial Commissioner Assam, dated the 22nd September 1870, ersing an order of the Deputy Commis- ner of Kamroop, dated the 11th August 870.

Luleet Narain Gossamee (Claimant), *Appellant,*

versus

Keshub Deb Gossamee (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboo Luleet Chunder Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Obhoy Churn Bose for Respondent.

Where a party complains under Section 230, Civil Procedure Code, of having been dispossessed in execution of a decree to which he was not a party, and there are reasonable grounds for thinking that his claim is *bonâ fide*, it is the duty of the Court to treat the case as a regular suit between the claimant as plaintiff and the decree-holder and judgment-debtor as defendants.

Mitter, J.—The decree-holder in this case, one Keshub Chunder Gossamee, instituted a suit against Sreepoora Debia and Buddun Chunder Surma for possession of certain lands. The special appellant, Luleet Narain Gossamee, intervened, claiming the property in dispute under a will alleged to have been executed in his favor by the predecessor of the decree-holder, Keshub Chunder. The Court, however, without making Luleet Narain a party to the suit, and without determining what his rights in the disputed property were, gave a decree in favor of Keshub Chunder as against the defendants Sreepoora and Buddun Chunder. Keshub Chunder has now applied for execution, and the special appellant, Luleet Narain, appeared before the Deputy Commissioner of Kamroop, evidently under the provisions of Section 230, Act VIII. of 1859, complaining that he had been dispossessed by the decree-holder, Keshub Chunder, of the lands in question in execution of a decree to which he was not a party. The Deputy Commissioner, instead of trying the case in the mode prescribed by the Section above referred to, *viz.*, instead of ascertaining in the first place whether the claim brought by Luleet Narain was a *bonâ-fide* claim brought by a person other than the defendant in the original suit, and then trying the case as a regular suit, as he ought to have done, passed an order to the effect that the order passed by him on the 16th June last "will not disturb Luleet Narain if he is in possession."

Against this order the decree-holder, Keshub Chunder, appealed to the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, and that officer, without going into the merits of the case as a regular suit between the parties, reversed the order of the Deputy Commissioner upon

the ground that he, the Deputy Commissioner, had no power to stay the execution of the decree.

We are of opinion that there has been a miscarriage in the investigation of this case in both the Lower Courts. The provisions of Section 230 are clear and imperative. If there are reasonable grounds for thinking that the claim preferred by the plaintiff is a *bond-fide* claim, preferred not on behalf of the party cast in the original litigation, it is the duty of the Court to treat the case as a regular suit between the claimant as plaintiff and the decree-holder and the judgment-debtor as defendants, the application being registered and numbered as a regular suit.

We, therefore, reverse the decision of both the Courts below, and remand the application of Luleet Narain to the Court of first instance to be dealt with under the provisions above referred to.

The costs of this Court and of the Lower Courts will abide the ultimate result.

The 1st March 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Section 119, Code of Civil Procedure—Re-hearing.

Case No. 460 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 12th September 1870.

Sookh Moyee Dossee, *Appellant,*

versus

Nurmooda Dossee, *Respondent.*

Baboo Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Respondent.

In an application for a re-hearing under Section 119, Act VIII. of 1859, made after the time allowed by that Section, where applicant alleged that the property which had been attached in execution was not her property, and that she had had no notice of either suit or decree:

HELD that she was entitled to an inquiry into the truth of the allegation as to attachment, and that, if her whole plea were made out, she would be entitled to a re-hearing of the case.

Glover, J.—THE appellant in this was one of a number of co-defen against whom a suit had been brought bond which hypothecated certain property as security for the debt. S of the defendants made their appearanc defended the suit, but the present peti was not present at the time the suit w cided, and she now comes in under S 119, forty-five days after (as the Subor Judge says) the attachment of her pr in the mofussil, to pray for a re-hear the ground that she had no notice of th The Subordinate Judge refused her cation on the ground that she was time, more than 15 days over the ti lowed by Section 119 having elapsed the process for enforcing the judgme this case, the attachment of her propert been executed in the mofussil.

The appeal is made on the groun no process for enforcing the judgme ever been taken against the property petitioner, and that she had no intima a suit having been brought against h appears from the record that this peti Mussamut Sookh Moyee, did, whe came before the Subordinate Judge, o give evidence in support of her alle that the property which had been att was not her property, and that, therefo process for enforcement of judgment ha executed against her.

It is contended by the pleader o other side that the petitioner has no r the privileges given by Section 119 she was one of a number of co-defen against several of whom judgment was ed; and if she did not choose to make h pearance at the time the case was dis of, the Court had the power to pass orders with regard to her as appeare and proper under the circumstances case (Section 116). We do not unde why a party, against whom such an may have been passed under Section cannot afterwards come up and apply re-hearing under Section 119. That tion applies, without any distinction, parties against whom a judgment ex has been pronounced, on the ground of not putting in appearance when the was first heard. Further, it does not pear that any order was passed under provisions of Section 116.

Then with regard to the objection the property which was attached in the

il, and the attachment of which is said ave been the first notice which the peti- r had of the judgment passed against -it is contended that she must neces- y have known of the judgment, and that ttachment was made against her pro- from the fact that this property had mortgaged under a bond by herself as ardian of her minor son. No doubt, re was any evidence on the record ow that Sookh Moyee admitted that roperty attached was that very property h she had mortgaged, there would be d of the question; but in her applica- she distinctly says that the property had been attached in execution of the e was not her property, but the proper- some other person, and offered to give ce in support of that plea.

the case of Shib Chunder Bhadooree Luckhee Debia Chowdhrain, reported 6th Volume, Weekly Reporter, page hich is a case very similar to this, the ed Judges remanded the suit to the r Court to take evidence on an allega- made under circumstances similar to . In that case the party who was ap- for a re-hearing under Section 119 ted that the property which had been ed in execution was not his; that it have been attached as his, but that, in y, he had no interest in it; and therefore the attachment gave him no intimation here had been an *ex-parte* decree passed st him, and the learned Judges remand- e case to have an inquiry made on points, and to have it decided whether the applicant had, by reason of the rty attached being the property of er person, not received intimation by rocess of attachment of the decree pass- ainst him. This case appears to be imilar.

at the property which the decree- r has attached is the property mort- d by this petitioner is denied by her; if this denial can be made out, and if it further be made out that she had no e either of the institution of the suit or e *ex-parte* decree passed against her, would be clearly entitled, under the isions of Section 119 to a re-hearing of case.

e remand this case to the Lower Court a fresh trial with reference to the above arks.

The 1st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Cause of action—Pleadings—Registered tenants —Section 27, Act X. of 1859.

Case No. 1928 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Purneah, dated the 2nd July 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Kishengunge, dated the 3rd February 1870.

Dhunput Singh Roy Bahadoor (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Vellayet Ali and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboos Sreenath Doss* and *Kishen Dyal Roy* for Appellant.

Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose for Respondents.

A plaintiff has no right to change the character of his pleading, and to obtain a decree on a cause of action not originally contemplated.

A zemindar is bound to look only to his registered tenant; the equivalent of registration being presumed where he receives rents from his tenant in recognition of his tenancy.

Bayley, J.—In this case the plaintiff sues to reverse the sale of a *madad maish paiki* jageer, held under Regulation VIII. of 1819, on the ground of no notice having been served upon him. I may add that we have carefully considered the whole terms of the plaint, and we find there is nothing whatever in it that the tenure was not of the class contemplated by Regulation VIII. of 1819, or that the sale was improperly held under that Regulation, except the bare mention that the plaintiff did not receive due notice.

The first Court gave the plaintiff a decree, which the Lower Appellate Court has affirmed on appeal.

In special appeal the contention by the pleader for the special appellant is, that the Lower Appellate Court has erred in law in holding that the sale made in this case under

Regulation VIII. of 1819 is illegal. It is admitted, or rather it has been found as a fact, that some of the plaintiffs are purchasers of a portion of the lands, and others claimants as co-parceners by inheritance. It is admitted, however, that all the cases will be governed by one decision in special appeal. The whole question is as to the correctness of the decision of the Lower Appellate Court in holding that the sale in this case was illegal under Regulation VIII. of 1819. Act X. of 1859, Section 27, clearly lays down that a zemindar is bound to look only to his registered tenant, and the equivalent of that registration may be, according to the rulings of our Courts, presumed in case the zemindar receives rents from his tenant in recognition of his tenancy. But the tenure itself, in the case now before us, is one of the class contemplated by Section 8, Regulation VIII. of 1819; and on the pleadings the plaintiff, whose only case really was that the sale under that Regulation in this case was wrong and illegal, rested on the allegation of no notice having been served upon him. Now, the plaintiff had ample opportunity of requesting to have an issue fixed and determined upon that point, but from the first to the last he has not done or attempted to do anything of the kind, though the plaint itself indicated this as the basis of the illegality of the sale. It is extremely difficult to find out from the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court what its view on the merits of the case is; but this fact is clear that the Lower Appellate Court has erred in law in holding that the property was not liable to sale under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819. Plaintiff's case was that the sale was illegal in consequence of no notice having been issued on him. Nevertheless, he took no means to have that point raised in issue and decided. He raised no other point, and has no right to change the character of his pleading now. I, for myself, am always averse to see a plaintiff who comes to Court on one cause of action resiling from that point, and getting a decree on a cause of action which he never thought of.

In this view, I would reverse the decision of the Lower Courts, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit with all costs.

Mitter, J.—I am of the same opinion. I think the Lower Appellate Court is wrong in holding that the tenure in question was not liable to be sold under the provisions of Regulation VIII of 1819. The objection was never raised either in the plaint o any other proceeding in the Court of instance; and if it were raised there, th fendant-zemindar might have conclu proved that the tenure fell within the visions of Section 8 of that Regulation.

On the other point raised in the ca is sufficient for me to say that, the L Appellate Court having distinctly found the plaintiff's name was never registe the zemindar's books, and that the pl was never recognized as a tenant in shape whatever, the defendant-zemind not bound to give any notice to the pl when he instituted proceedings again registered tenant for arrears of rent a tedly due to him. That being so, the p iff's suit for reversal of the sale must sarily fall to the ground.

The 1st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Gl *Judges.*

Rights of fishing (public and private)—Pr tion—User.

Case No. 2020 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pas the Subordinate Judge of East Bur dated the 15th July 1870, affirm decision of the Moonsiff of Culna, the 10th January 1870.

Chunder Jaleah and others (Plaintiff *Appellants,*

versus

Ram Churn Mookerjee and others (Def ants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and S *nath Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Khet Mohun Mookerjee* for Respondents.

The right of fishing in a navigable river does long to the public, nor is the Government prohib any law from granting to individuals the exclusive of fishing in such a river.

Prescriptive rights are founded on the presu of a grant from long-continued uninterrupted user enjoyment as of right.

Glover, J.—THIS was a suit for a de ration of the plaintiffs' right to fish in

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Ganges between two given points, *viz.*, ouse of Gopee Boishtub and the Satga- Ferry, without payment of rent, and to r damages for loss of fish occasioned defendant's action in obstructing the with stakes, nets, and other appliances, by the plaintiffs were prevented from g that quantity of fish which they wise would have caught had there been ch obstructions.

e defendants Ram Chunder and Sham der Mookerjee, after denying that they raised any bund, or in any way ob- d the river to the loss of the plaint- lleged that the plaintiffs had no right hing within the limits specified by without payment of rent; that the Bhandoduho was included in the ment estate No. 2375 on the Col- s towjee, which was sold by Govern- and purchased by the defendants, who e right of fishing to tenants. They that no injury had been done to the iffs or to the public.

e other defendants, Otul Beharee Mun- nd Nil Kant Roy, the owners of r portion of the julkur called Nubo- , stated that this julkur was part of tate Kaleepore, which was sold for s of rent due by the durputneedar, as bought by them (defendants), since time they have been in possession.

h regard to the julkur Bhandoduho, formed part of the river in which aintiffs sued to have their right to eclared, the Moonsiff found that it een a khas mehal of Government, had been sold to the defendants Ram der and Sham Chunder by Govern- , and that these defendants had, there- the right to fish the water in any way eemed best to them.

to the other julkur Nubogunge, the iff considered that the defendants Otul ee and Neel Kant had not been able ove that the flowing stream of the s in which the plaintiffs claimed the of fishing was identical with the Nubogunge, purchased by them at the n-sale for arrears of rent.

d with regard to the plaintiff's title, he that, although they had, in common with public generally, the right of fishing out payment in the navigable stream e Ganges, which was the khas property overnment, they had no title to do so on the ground that they had exercised the right for more than 12 years without payment of rent. The claim for damages was dismissed.

The Subordinate Judge, on the appeal of both plaintiffs and defendants, modified the Moonsiff's decision, and passed an order dismissing the plaintiff's claim altogether.

They now appeal specially to this Court, and urge—

(1.)—That the Subordinate Judge has misconceived the nature of the suit, which was not to prove a rent-free title to the river, but to establish a right to fish therein based on an uninterrupted enjoyment for more than 12 years.

(2.)—That the Subordinate Judge was, therefore, wrong in dismissing the suit, because plaintiffs were unable to file documents of title.

(3.)—That he was also wrong in supposing that no private rights of fishing can exist in a navigable stream.

(4.)—That 12 years' uninterrupted enjoyment of the right of fishing would give the plaintiffs a title to have their right declared, and to have the obstructions in the way of their exercising that right in its entirety removed.

The first objection appears to me well-founded. The Subordinate Judge treated the suit as one of alleged rent-free tenure. The two first issues fixed by him at the hearing of the appeal show this. They were (1) whether the julkur is the *valid rent-free holding* of the plaintiffs, or does the said property form part of the zemindaree as well as of the Government khas mehal? and (2) whether the plaintiffs had held *under a rent-free title* possession of the property in question before the alleged dispossession mentioned in the plaint? and on these issues the Subordinate Judge decided that, as the "plaintiffs had not been able to "prove their allegation by any documentary "evidence," and as "they could not show "that they received from the actual owner "of the said river any document of rent- "free title or any old char with regard to "their holding any rent-free title to catch "fish in an unfordable stream," therefore their claim is not proved, and their suit is dismissed, the mere fact of their having fished "without any right in the julkur" not being sufficient to give them a rent-free title.

Now, it is clear from the words of the plaint which have been read to us that the plaintiffs did not attempt to set up any rent-free title. What they said was that they had for very many years been in the habit of fishing in the julkurs in question, which were the navigable stream of the Ganges, and that the defendants had no right to obstruct the free exercise of their privilege by erecting bunds or putting up stakes and nets. They did not, as the pleader for the special respondents contends, claim an exclusive right in themselves, but sued, on general grounds, as forming part of the general public. No doubt, the wording of the plaint is in one place somewhat dubious; but taking the whole together, and looking to the way in which the case was conducted in the first Court, there can, I think, be no doubt that the plaintiffs claimed the right of uninterrupted fishery, on the ground that the public were entitled to fish in the river, and had so fished from time immemorial. And if this view be correct, of course the Subordinate Judge was wrong in insisting on documentary evidence of an exclusive rent-free title, and in dismissing the plaintiffs' case for want of such evidence.

I do not, however, think it necessary to remand the case for further trial.

It has been strongly contended that the right of fishing in a navigable river belongs to the public, and that no grant of such right can be made to any private individual, and that on this account, if on no other, the plaintiffs are entitled to succeed. I am not aware of any law in force in this country which restricts the power of the State in this way. No doubt, there is a decision of the late Sudder Court (S. D. A. Reports, 1859, page 1357), Gureeb Hossein Chowdhry and others *versus* G. Lamb, which has been much relied on by the special appellant, in which there is the following remark: "That by the "Regulation Law, Regulation XI. of 1825, "which is declaratory of the Common Law "of this country, as well as by the Common "Law of England, the bed of a navigable "river is not the property of any individual, "and consequently the right of fishery in "such rivers is not private property, but "that right is a right common to every per-"son. And if any individual claims an "exclusive right in navigable waters, "he must show that it has been acquired "either by grant or by prescription, and that, "until that be shown, the presumption is "strong against him."

But in the first place, this case is n all fours with the present. It had refe to the Megna, a large river in which th ebbs and flows regularly, and which fac every thing to do with the decision a at; for the learned Judges say in the co ing part of the decision: "Altogether w "of opinion that neither of the parties b "us has to any extent proved the s "titles set up by them. Had the p "claims advanced on either side been f "exclusive right of fishing in a river a "the ebbing and flowing of the tide, in "case the claims of the parties would "been limited to the extent of their rip "ownership."

The julkur now in dispute is in a gable river certainly, for boats can a pass at all seasons of the year, althou the hot and cold seasons the water i very deep, but the river has no tide place where the julkurs are situated, o dormant stream like most other inland

In the next place, I do not understan Regulation XI. of 1825 enacted that "bed of a navigable river could not b "property of any individual." On contrary, that Regulation appears to distinctly to recognize the fact that bed of such river might become the pro of an individual proprietor, as in the c an island between which and a riparian prietor the water might be fordable, this case, the nearest riparian prop could, if the channel between his estat the newly-formed island were fordable, in and secure it for himself. The Re tion did not, therefore, as it seems to declare that the beds of all navigable were the property of the State; but if it done so, it would have followed, I suppose, the right of fishery in the waters over bed would be the property of Govern also. Anyhow I fail to see the infer which has been much pressed upon us, because the bed of a navigable river not belong to any individual, but does, e under particular circumstances, belong t State, the right of fishery in such a river not become private property. I should ther have inferred that, if the State had r under ordinary circumstances over the ri bed, they had also over the fisheries, could grant the latter to individuals as as the former.

I do not, indeed, consider that the deci above quoted laid down any such gen

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position, and it is certain that the point ded had no connection with it. I have consulted Mr. Justice Bayley, one of the es who took part in that decision, and s no doubt that the only point decided the right to a fishery in what was almost, quite, an arm of the sea. In short, the gist of the judgment is opposed to the ing which the special appellant's pleader es to put upon it, although there are de- ed passages which may support his con- ion.

must not be forgotten, moreover, that, ugh the Common Law of England now ds the grant of rights of fishing by the n in a public river, meaning by that a able river where the tide ebbs and flows, not so always; but before the Great er, the Crown had the power to grant to iduals exclusive rights of fishing therein 1 Stephen's Commentaries 680), and I do see that the governing power in this try is prohibited by any law from doing same thing. As a matter of fact, it has e so in very many instances, and very y julkurs composed of portions of large able rivers (meaning by navigable, s which allow of the passage of boats ll seasons, although they are not tidal) been leased out by Government either rately or as adjuncts to estates. To my in knowledge, julkurs in the large s Soane and Gunduk have been and leased out to individuals by the Govern- t, and the practice has gone on for the hundred years.

do not, therefore, think that it can be that the public have the right which special appellant's pleader claims for n, or that the plaintiffs, as representing public, could remove the obstruction ed in the way of their more profitable g by the proprietors of the julkurs in tion. And it has been found as a fact the Subordinate Judge that the defend- are proprietors holding their rights the Government.

There remains the question whether 12 rs' enjoyment of an unrestricted right of ing is sufficient to create in the plaintiffs right to have the defendant's appliances fishing removed.

I think not. The plaintiffs cannot, at any e, claim a title by prescription, for escriptive rights are founded on the pre- mption of a grant from long-continued uninterrupted user and enjoyment as of right. Now, as the plaintiffs' case is that Government had no power to interfere with the rights of the public to fish in any navigable river, it could not have conferred a grant of such privileges to any one. The enjoyment claimed cannot, therefore, be accounted for, and is inconsistent with there having even been a grant or conveyance.

And as for uninterrupted enjoyment for 12 years, that cannot, it seems to me, give the plaintiffs any claim under the Statute of Limitations; for they do not allege that they have held their rights adversely to the defendants, but admit that the defendants have themselves the right to fish even as they, the plaintiffs.

No one has prevented the plaintiffs from fishing, and no one has, so far as this record shows, demanded rent from them. They ask to have the defendants restrained from exercising, what appear to me legitimate, rights of ownership in property sold to them by Government.

I think that this special appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Kemp, J.—I concur in dismissing this special appeal. The Subordinate Judge was, no doubt, wrong, as shown by my learned colleague, in considering this to be a case in which the plaintiff based his right on a sunnud or any lakheraj holding; but the Subordinate Judge found on the evidence that the two julkurs in dispute, which are not julkurs of a tidal river, had been settled by, or purchased from, the Government, and that the defendants were entitled to the exclusive right of fishing in those julkurs. The julkurs in dispute belonged to khas mehals in which the Government have or had a proprietary title. That title has been leased in the one case and sold in the other to the defendants. The plaintiffs did not prove a right to fish either by grant or by user for such a period as to raise the presumption of a grant.

The 1st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Rights—User.

Case No. 2081 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 8th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 29th November 1869.

Shunkur Sahoo and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Gurbhoo Sahoo and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Gregory and *Baboo Abinash Chunder Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Respondents.

Deprivation of the right to a rise of water is an injury; and a claim to repair a bund for the purpose of securing such right is not answered by the tender of another bund quite as good.

Bayley, J.—We think this special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The plaintiffs sued for the declaration of their right to repair an old bund over a piece of water called Daw Singia.

The defendants' allegation was that the suit was barred by limitation; that there was no exercise of the rights claimed by the plaintiffs within 12 years of suit; and that no injury had accrued to the plaintiffs at all.

The first Court, upon the evidence, gave plaintiff a decree, and the Lower Appellate Court has affirmed that decree.

In special appeal it is contended by Mr. Gregory that the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is erroneous on two grounds: *firstly*, because the Lower Appellate Court has not come to any finding whether the plaintiffs had exercised the right of repairing the old bund within 12 years of suit; and, *secondly*, because no injury had accrued to the plaintiffs by the defendants' action.

Now, the Subordinate Judge has believed the plaintiffs' evidence as proving their allegation. The suit was for declaration of the plaintiffs' right to repair the old bund. The evidence is to the effect that that right existed for many years until within a very recent period; when the plaintiffs' people went to repair the bund, the defendants o structed them. If the Subordinate Ju believes this evidence, and he says he d it would prove that the plaintiffs did e cise the right within 12 years of suit. are, therefore, of opinion that the Lo Appellate Court has substantially found fact upon the evidence that the plaintiffs exercise the right of repairing the b within 12 years of suit.

As to the *second* objection, it was s as part of the plaintiffs' case that "t "existed an old bund on account of w "the water used to rise up and pass "the dandh of the plaintiffs, which is "nected with it, and irrigates the land of "plaintiffs; that that bund had been des "ed, and the defendant had erected an "bund on a low ground; that, in this "bund, the water does not rise so high "flow into the dandh of the plaintiffs; "that hence the suit was instituted for "pairing the old bund." This allega is found as a fact by the Lower Appe Court to be supported by the evidence duced by the plaintiffs. It is clear, th fore, that there is deprivation of the pla iffs' right of some rise of water which previously enjoyed, and that this is ow to the new bund raised by the defendant low ground and the obstruction by def ant to plaintiffs' repairing their old b Such deprivation of right is certainly an jury.

It is argued that the new bund answ the purpose of the plaintiffs quite as we the old. The previous remarks and statements of facts contradict this con tion; and even if they do not, it is pro that the plaintiffs had a certain right to pair a certain bund, and it is no answer t claim of a right to say that the party have another bund quite as good as the specific one which they repaired by r Addison on Tort, page 73, has been quo in support of the contention, but we are opinion that the passages cited have no plication to the present case. Essential jury must be proved in cases where a p deals with what is entirely his own prop ty. Here the defendant obstructs the pair of the old bund, which it was the r of the plaintiffs to repair.

On the whole, we think the Lower A pellate Court has come to a finding of f which cannot be interfered with in spec appeal, and we, therefore, dismiss this spec appeal with costs.

The 22nd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Damages—Breach of contract.

Case No. 1800 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Dacca, dated the 3rd June 1870, affirming a decision of the Additional Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 21st July 1869.

Ma Gobind Shaha (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Imam Buksh Oostagur (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Dwarkanath Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Gopal Lall Mitter* for Respondent.

In a suit for damages for breach of contract to supply which defendant had engaged to supply for the construction of a house, where the intention was found to have been that the plaintiff should from time to time give defendant notice of the different articles of wood-work required:

HELD that defendant was only liable for damages to the extent of the wood which he did not supply according to the order given to him, not for the wood for which requisition had not been made.

Jackson, J.—THIS is an action by the plaintiff for damages arising out of a breach of contract by the defendant to supply wood required by the Public Works Department for the building of the Magistrate's Cutcherry at Dacca. The plaintiff alleged that, in consequence of the breach of contract, he had been obliged to procure wood at a higher price from some other party; and he accordingly sues to recover the excess costs of the wood. The defendant, on the other hand, pleaded that he had been prepared to supply the wood, and he had not broken the contract, and the breach of the contract had, in fact, been on the part of the plaintiff.

Both the Lower Courts upon these points have decided against the defendant, and have given the plaintiff a decree for the excess price of the whole of the timber which had been estimated for the building.

Several grounds have been taken before us in special appeal against this decision. But we are satisfied that none of them is tenable with the exception of one. One of the contentions on the part of the defendant was that, even if he had broken the contract, he was not liable for the whole of the wood-work required for the building, but only for such portion of it as he had been required by the plaintiff to supply.

Both the Lower Courts have alluded to this question: the Judge in the following terms:—

"Again the appellant urges that he is "not liable for more timber than specified "in the list admitted by plaintiff. It ap-"pears to me that this plea is not sound. "There is, indeed, a sentence in the contract "saying that plaintiff will give defendant "notice from time to time as the wood is "wanted, but the contract was for the "whole of the timber required for a par-"ticular building, and while defendant has "confessedly never supplied for more than "3 beams out of the quantity specified in "the list, I cannot see that the plaintiff "has been guilty of any neglect in sending "no requisition for more."

But looking into the contract, we find that, although there was a general agreement to supply the whole wood required for the house, it was also specially stated that the plaintiff informed defendant what particular sort of wood-work was required to be supplied within a particular time; and it does appear as if it was the intention that the plaintiff should continue from time to time to give the defendant further notice of the other different articles of wood-work which would be required. There is nothing to show that the defendant obtained any such further notice beyond the special notice which is alluded to in the contract; and there is nothing to show that the defendant was made acquainted with what was actually required beyond what was specially stated in that notice. The defendant's objection, then, that he could only be made liable for what he was specially required to supply, and which he did not supply, seems therefore to be sound. It may be that, because the defendant broke the contract as regards that particular order, therefore the plaintiff did not think it necessary to give him any further order. But it is evident that the defendant could not supply until the plaintiff gave him such order; and it is not quite

certain that the defendant might not have carried out the subsequent order, even if he did not carry out the first order. The defendant is only liable for the amount of wood which he did not supply according to the order given to him by the plaintiff, and the decree given against him must be reduced to a very great extent. The decree, as it stands at present, is for 2,433 cubic feet, and we decrease the amount to 719 cubic feet; and we accordingly confirm the decree of the Lower Court in so far as it awards to the plaintiff the excess price for 719 cubic feet of wood, and the decree of the Lower Courts which allows the excess price of the remainder of the wood must be set aside.

Costs of this Court and of the Lower Courts will be calculated in proportion to the amount decreed.

Mookerjee, J.—I entirely concur.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Measurement-papers—Evidence.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 3rd September 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Monghyr, dated the 10th June 1870.

Jharee Sahoo (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Bundhoo Sahoo and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondents.

A Lower Appellate Court was held to have been fully justified in rejecting measurement-papers as inadmissible in law, where no proof was given to show in what circumstances, under what authority, and for what purpose they had been prepared.

Bayley, J.—We think this special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The plaintiff, as purchaser of a decree against Sheo Sahoy Sahoo, sues for the declaration of his right to have a house sold in execution as the property of these judgment-debtors. In the execution-department petition for sale was disallowed on the ob tion of Bundhoo Sahoo, the defendant.

The first Court, after a careful revie the whole evidence, and referring to the surement-papers, which it held were drawn up in the presence of the parti made the subject of a judicial investig came to the conclusion that the plaintiff f to prove his right. The first Court fu found that the title and possession of the fendant were borne out by the evidence, that the plaintiff's suit was barred by li tion.

The Lower Appellate Court has also stantially come to the same finding and dismissed the plaintiff's suit.

In special appeal the only ground pre upon us is, that the Lower Appellate Co wrong in holding that the measureme pers were no evidence in the case.

Now, the words used by the Lower A late Court must be read as a whole, an their context, and not by detached pass or words. The Lower Appellate Court "The measurement-papers relied upo "the plaintiff are no evidence in this cas "they are not said to have been drawn "the presence of any of the parties. "proof is forthcoming that the judgm "debtors ever tenanted the house; an "though Seetul, who lived in it for a "time, says that he had been paying re "the father of the judgment-debtors, "is forced to admit that latterly he paid "to the defendant." Reading the passage together, it is clear that the "no evidence" is with reference to the ance to be put upon it. The Lower App Court's meaning is that it is no su evidence; and that is clear from the succ ing sentences with reference to the evid of Seetul. The Lower Appellate Court ceeds to hold that on his part the defe proved by sufficient evidence his posse under the kobalah, by receipt of rent period of more than 12 years, and tha plaintiff's suit was thus barred by limita This is a finding of fact upon the evid come to by both the Lower Courts. No sp appeal will lie, and it is therefore dism with costs.

Mitter, J.—I concur in dismissing appeal. I wish merely to add that the sion of the Lower Appellate Court mus affirmed, even if we consider that that C

rejected the measurement-papers in ques- as inadmissible in law. The special ellant gave no proof whatever to show , under what circumstances, under what ority, and for what purpose, those papers prepared; and. in the absence of such s, the Lower Appellate Court was fully ed in rejecting them as inadmissible.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present :

Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Attachment—Rival decree-holders—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 1347 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Dacca, dated the 18th April 70, reversing a decision of the Subor- ate Judge of that District, dated the May 1869.

ha Gobind Shah (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

haikh Oozeer Jemadar (Defendant), *Respondent.*

R. T. Allan and *Baboo Dwarkanath Sein* for Appellant.

r. R. E. Twidale for Respondent.

e property has been attached in execution of a it is competent to a rival decree-holder to show attachment should not have issued, as the under which it issued was barred by lapse of and the Court, if satisfied that the decree is so , is competent to see that the decree-holder, who execution, does not share in the distribution of proceeds.

kerjee, J.—THE plaintiff as well as the ant in this case held certain decrees the same judgment-debtor. There other person of the name of Mungla- , who also held a decree against the udgment-debtor. It was found that operty had been first attached on the ation of the decree-holder Mungla- . After the sale of the property, the r Ameen, in distributing the sale-pro- , held that Munglanunda was entitled to tire satisfaction of his decree, and ad- d to the plaintiff and the defendant le shares of the surplus sale-proceeds. found subsequently, at the instance of defendant, that the decrees, in execution of which the plaintiff had attached the property, were barred by limitation; and that, according to Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859, no process of execution should have been issued in regard to those decrees. The Sudder Ameen, therefore, ordered the plaintiff to refund the money he had received as his share, and held that the defendant was entitled to that sum—he being the sole remaining attaching creditor. When the plaintiff was required by the Sudder Ameen to refund the money, the plaintiff, who had other decrees in the Subordinate Judge's Court against the same judgment-debtor, applied to the Subordinate Judge to require the Moonsiff to send the amount to his Court. The Subordinate Judge, by a proceeding, asked the Moonsiff to remit the sum to his Court. But the Moonsiff refused to send the money, because he had already ordered it to be paid to the defendant, who had attached the property after Munglanunda. The plaintiff has now instituted this suit to recover that money.

His suit is based on the ground that the Sudder Ameen ought to have remitted the money as required by the Subordinate Judge, and that the decrees he held against the judgment-debtor in the Subordinate Judge's Court would have been satisfied if the money had been sent. He, therefore, prays that the order of the Sudder Ameen, dated the 3rd February 1868, refusing to send the money, should be set aside. There is also a prayer in the plaint that a previous order of the 26th September 1867, by which the Sudder Ameen held that the decrees which the plaintiff held in his Court were barred, should also be set aside. But from the whole tenor of the plaint, it is very clear that the plaintiff rested his right to a share in the surplus sale-proceeds on the ground of his being a decree-holder of the Subordinate Judge's Court. There is no allegation in the plaint that the decrees which the Sudder Ameen had held to be barred were not actually barred, but were really subsisting decrees at the time of the plaintiff's attachment. We, therefore, find that in the Courts below there were no issues on the point whether the decrees which the Sudder Ameen had held to be barred were actually barred or not.

The first Court gave the plaintiff a decree, but it is not very clear on what ground the decree was given. There is no adjudication whether the decrees which the plaintiff held were justly found by the Sudder Ameen to

be barred or not. But the first Court, being of opinion that the Sudder Ameen ought to have obeyed the order of the Subordinate Judge by sending the money to his Court, and as the Sudder Ameen has not done so, and as the plaintiff had attached the property, but the defendant had not, the plaintiff was entitled to get the money. Now, there appears to be a confusion of ideas in the Subordinate Judge's mind. He does not state clearly whether the attachments he speaks of were attachments made in execution of the lapsed decrees or the decrees of his own Court. But he says only that the plaintiff had attached, and the defendant had not. On appeal, the Judge found that the defendant had attached the property in execution of his decree, whereas the only attachment which the plaintiff had made of the property was in execution of the decrees which had lapsed by efflux of time, and there was no attachment of the property under the decrees of the Subordinate Judge's Court. The Judge, therefore, reversed the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and held that the plaintiff, not being an attaching judgment-creditor, who had attached the property prior to the order of the distribution of the sale-proceeds, was not entitled to a rateable distribution of the same.

It is now contended before us by Mr. Allan that the real object of the suit was to have it declared that the order of the 26th September 1867, by which the Sudder Ameen held that the decrees in execution of which the attachment was made were decrees which were no longer subsisting, being barred by limitation, was a wrong order; and that, although in the plaint it was not stated that the decrees were not barred, still that point ought to have been tried by the Courts below. The simple answer to this argument is that the suit has not been brought on that ground, and that point has not been pressed before any of the Courts below. We cannot in special appeal say that the decisions of both the Court below are wrong on a point which was never pressed before them. However, we allowed Mr. Allan an opportunity to show from the records of the case, which have been sent for by an order of this Bench, that the decrees were not really barred. But he was unable to satisfy us on that point; and even if we were disposed to send the case back, we see there is no use of our doing so, when we find that the appellant's pleader is unable to satisfy us that any good would result to any party by our sending the case back, plaintiff being unable to show us that the decrees were, in reality, not barred at time of the attachment.

Then, it is contended by Mr. Allan the Court had no authority, at the inst of a rival decree-holder, to decide, for the poses of distributing the surplus sale- ceeds, whether the decrees, under which plaintiff had obtained the attachment, w really barred or not. I, however, think it is in the power of a rival decree-holder show that any other decree, under w the property has been attached, is no a subsisting decree, and that the proc issued by the Court in execution of decree should not have been issued at It is a matter of the greatest concern decree-holder to see that the assets are tributed amongst persons who are n entitled to them. Under Section 27 the Procedure Code, it is undoubted the power of one decree-holder to show the decree obtained by another decree-h and under which the property had bee tached, was a decree obtained by h fraud or by other improper means; a he can show that, the Court distrib the surplus sale-proceeds would be co tent to award satisfaction to the de holder, who has shown that his rival's d has been obtained by fraud or other i per means. By a parity of reasoni think one decree-holder is quite comp to show that the decree of another de holder is barred by lapse of time, and therefore, that person is no longer a d holder, and consequently not entitled share in the sale-proceeds; and if the is satisfied that that decree is really b the Court is also fully competent to s he should not have any benefit in th tribution. Parties aggrieved by that may contest the justness of it by a su may show that the order passed b distributing officer was a wrong order much as the decree was not barred. case of the plaintiff was that the S Ameen was wrong, inasmuch as the was not barred, it was quite compe him to show and prove that fact in he has brought, and to state that fact and to ask the Court to decide wheth decrees held by him in the Sudder A Court were really barred or not. done no such thing. But, in the last of special appeal, he has asked us to and even then, when opportunity was to him, he was unable to show us th decrees were not barred. I would, fore, hold that the order of the Judge

per order, and that the plaintiff is not titled to participate in the distribution of sale-proceeds. I would, therefore, up- the order of the Judge, and dismiss this al with costs.

ckson, J.—I entirely concur.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Obstruction—Damages—Wassilat.

Case No. 1407 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated 20th May 1870, affirming a decision the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, ed the 13th September 1869.

Churn Singh (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Rungoo Singh and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Gregory for Appellant.

boos Kishen Succa Mookerjee and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Respondents.

truction to possession may be the ground of a for damages, but it cannot support a claim for at unless there has been dispossession, and the that has been prevented from enjoying rents and

ckson, J.—We have come to the con- on in this case that there has not been isfactory trial on proper issues.

e plaintiff alleged himself to be holding e of mouzah Sadipore, and he alleged the defendant had obstructed his pos- on and enjoyment of that mouzah; and therefore, asked the Court to give him cree for possession and for wassilat.

e defendant put in a written statement which he alleged several things. He ed that he had any connection with zah Sadipore, but he alleged that he a lease of a certain other mouzah called pore Lahuree; he further stated that deed of lease had been stolen from his house, and that the plaintiff, becoming aware of that fact, had brought the present suit for the purpose of annoying him, and in some way of disturbing him, the defendant, in the enjoyment of his rights as ticcadar of Sadipore Lahuree; and he, therefore, prayed that the suit might be dismissed, and be allowed his costs.

The Moonsiff who tried the suit originally framed, what he calls, two issues of fact, which are vague and obscure, and involved to the last degree. The points that he really did try were, whether the defendant had got a lease of mouzah Sadipore, and upon this point going into the evidence he decides in the negative. He then goes on to observe that, in this state of things, the plaintiff is undoubtedly entitled to possession, "for the lease of 20 years pleaded by the "defendant has not been proved to the "satisfaction of the Court The plaintiff, "therefore, can no longer be deprived of "possession," and thereupon he orders that "the suit be decreed, that the plaintiff "be put in possession of the disputed mou- "zah, and the principal defendant, Jugger "Nath Singh, do pay to plaintiff Court-costs "with interest from date of decision to "date of realization, at the rate of 12 per "cent. per annum, and mesne-profits to "whatever amount the same may be ascer- "tained in execution of decree, from the day "of the institution of the suit to the day "of possession."

Then the defendant appealed, and he appears to have chiefly laid stress upon the fact that he set up no claim of a nature adverse to the plaintiff's claim as ticcadar of Sadipore; and that consequently there was no cause of action against him, and that the suit ought to have been dismissed with costs.

The Subordinate Judge then taking up his written statement, and considering that one part of that written statement contained a denial of the plaintiff's title, holds that he was endeavouring in appeal to make a different defence from that which he set up in the Court of first instance, and, holding him to be thus impugning the plaintiff's title, decides that judgment has been properly given against him.

Now, the decision of the Moonsiff, which was in this way upheld by the Judge, really concludes almost nothing except this, that the defendant had no lease of mouzah Sadipore. It gives the plaintiff a vague

relief in the shape of wassilat against the defendant without having found that the plaintiff had really been ousted from his mouzah by the defendant, and it leaves the amount of the wassilat to be determined afterwards in execution. I do not think it would be satisfactory or safe if we should allow the case to remain in that condition.

The defendant did not seriously deny the plaintiff's right as lease-holder of Sadipore, nor did he, it seems to me, deny that Sadipore and Sadipore Lahuree are distinct mouzahs. It may be that the defendant's allegation in respect of mouzah Sadipore Lahuree was put forward with the intention of, if possible, avoiding any liability for mesne-profits, by disclaiming in distinct terms any title adverse to that of the plaintiff. It seems to me, therefore, in that state of things, that the Moonsiff ought to have determined whether the defendant had, under color of his ticca of mouzah Sadipore Lahuree, dispossessed the plaintiff from his own lands of Sadipore, or from any part of it.

The only evidence which has been shown bearing upon that point is the decision of the Magistrate in a certain criminal case in which the plaintiff alleges himself to have been obstructed by the defendant, and the defendant, it appears, was fined by the Magistrate on that account.

Now, such obstruction by the defendant might be the ground of a claim for damages; but unless the plaintiff had been dispossessed by the defendant, and the defendant had collected the rents or prevented the plaintiff from enjoying the rents and profits of his mehal, it would not support a claim for wassilat.

We think, therefore, that the case must go back, in order that the Moonsiff may try it *de novo* on fresh issues, namely, whether the plaintiff had been dispossessed from mouzah Sadipore or any part of it by the defendant, under color of his lease of mouzah Sadipore Lahuree; and, if so, what the period of dispossession had been, and whether the plaintiff was, in fact, out of possession by the act of the defendant at the time of bringing the suit; and whether, consequently, he is entitled to wassilat for mouzah Sadipore, as prayed in the plaint, from the time of bringing the suit until the period of final possession.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Gl
Judges.

**Conveyance of attached property—Execu
Attachment.**

Case No. 1695 of 1870.

*Special Appeal from a decision pass
the Officiating Judge of East Bur
dated the 12th May 1870, affirm
decision of the Subordinate Judg
that District, dated the 15th Febr
1870.*

Maharajah Dheeraj Mahatab Chund B
door (one of the Defendants), *Appella*

versus

Surno Moyee Dossee (Plaintiff) and o
(Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *A
tosh Mookerjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Romanath Bose and *Taruck N
Sein* for Respondents.

A deed of sale conveying property, if executed
the property is under attachment, cannot afterw
made valid by the release of the property.

The striking off of the execution-case does
away with an attachment once made, unless the
ment is expressly abandoned by the party at whi
it was issued.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this su
tained a decree on the 5th of May
against Sham Chand Baboo and his
Joy Coomaree Bibee. The circumst
under which Joy Coomaree came into
suit are not very intelligible; but the
no necessity to enter into them, because
is no doubt that the decree was given
against husband and wife. In executi
this decree, the plaintiff attached one o
properties which had originally belonge
Joy Coomaree, and on the 6th Nove
1865 obtained 1,500 rupees on account o
decree, and allowed the execution-case
struck off the file. In the interim, how
the defendants (special appellants before
got a conditional deed of sale from S
Chand Baboo and his wife Joy Coom
which was eventually foreclosed, and
decree for possession obtained. After
Rajah had so obtained possession, the orig

d

ree-holder took out execution again, and ied for attachment of the judgment-or's property. The Rajah objected to attachment, and his objection was al-d; hence the present suit by the plaint-or a declaration that the property of the Rajah is in possession is liable e unsatisfied portion of the plaintiff's e of the 5th of May 1863. The de-e of the Rajah is that, as his kut-kobalah registered, the decree obtained on it entitled to take precedence of the decree e plaintiff; and that, although, when the obalah was executed, the property con-was under attachment, that attach-was very soon after allowed to drop, as ineffectual.

h Lower Courts decided in plaintiff's and we think that they decided . There can be no doubt that, when efendant's conditional deed of sale was ted, the property conveyed by that was under attachment, and no alienation legally have been made by the judg-debtor. The contention that the kut-ah became afterwards effectual as t the judgment-debtor, by reason of decree-holder's having allowed the ment to lapse, is altogether untenable. bsequent laches, supposing there to have laches on the part of the decree-holder, make valid what was in its inception d. If the kut-kobalah was a document could not have been legally given by dgment-debtor at the time it was given, e that judgment-debtor had then no to alienate, it was not afterwards made by the fact of the property being re-from attachment. But we are by no satisfied that the attachment ever did to exist. The Lower Court has found, act, that it continued, and the joint peti-of the judgment-debtor and decree-r shows that, when the execution-case truck off, it was agreed upon by both that the attachment should be consi-as subsisting. It is contended that, in-ch as the decree-holder subsequently two several applications for attachment 68 and 1869, that of itself shows that rst attachment was abandoned. But it not follow, of necessity, that, because quent applications for attachment were , the original attachment was aban-d. The question was discussed at some h in the case of Jhoboo Sahoo and *versus* Ram Churn Roy and others, ted in Volume XI. of the Weekly Re-er, page 516. In that case the learned Judges gave detailed reasons for holding that the striking-off of an execution-case does not, of necessity, do away with an attachment once made, unless there is something to show that the attachment was expressly abandoned by the party at whose suit it was issued. If it could be shown in this case that the subsequent petitions by the judgment-creditor were to the effect that he had of his own accord abandoned the first attachment, and applied to have the property attached *de novo*, that would be a different thing; but there is nothing on the record to show the circumstances under which the subsequent applications were made, nor can the pleader for the special appellant show us that the facts are as stated by him.

We see, therefore, no reason to interfere with the judgment of the Court below, and dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Pre-emption.

Case No. 1747 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Sylhet, dated the 27th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Lushkerpore, dated the 3rd March 1870.

Akhoy Ram Shahajee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Kant Roy and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Piffard and *Baboos Ashootosh Dhur* and *Debendro Narain Bose* for Appellant.

Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee and *Nuleet Chunder Sein* for Respondents.

A right of pre-emption attaches to the sale of the share of a zemindaree in the case of a co-sharer, though it may not attach on the ground of vicinage.

The right of pre-emption is not one which attaches to property, and the obligation it implies may be limited to the residents of a district or to a family or to any particular class of persons, it being for the claimant in each case to show that it attaches to the defendant.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff in this case claimed a right of pre-emption on the ground

that he was a co-sharer. The defendant Rookinee Kant had purchased a 4-anna share of the estate, of which plaintiff was a co-sharer from the defendant. The defendant Rookinee Kant stated that he had effected the purchase from one Koroona Moyee, whose general agent he was, though the purchase had been made in his own name; and Koroona Moyee, intervening as defendant, urged that neither she nor the vendor were bound by any right of pre-emption, and that she, Koroona Moyee, was herself a co-sharer in the estate. There was also an allegation that the preliminaries had not been properly performed.

The Appellate Court, from whose decision this appeal is preferred, agreed on each and every point with the decision of the Moonsiff who originally tried the suit. The Subordinate Judge held that no right of pre-emption existed as to a share in a zemindaree; that the vendor and purchaser, being residents of the Mymensingh and Tipperah Zillahs, were not bound by any right of pre-emption, as the exercise of that right was not customary in those districts among Hindoos; that the purchaser was herself a co-sharer in the estate, and finally agreed with the Moonsiff that the preliminary rites had not been properly performed.

On each and all of these points this special appeal has been argued. On the first point, that no such right attaches to a share in a zemindaree, the Subordinate Judge is in error. It was ruled by the decision of the Full Bench of this Court in the decision quoted in the margin* that such a right did attach to a sale of a share of a zemindaree in the case of a co-sharer, though it might not attach on the ground of vicinage.

* 14 Weekly Reporter, page 1, Full Bench.

On the second point, I am of opinion that the Subordinate Judge has laid down the law correctly. It is admitted that, among the residents of the district of Sylhet, there is a custom sanctioning a right of pre-emption even among Hindoos. But the defendants are not residents of that district, and there is no evidence to prove that, in the case of transactions between them, any such right can be exercised. It would not be exercised in the case of a European buying or selling landed property in the district of Sylhet, unless it would be proved that such was a general custom among Europeans in that district. It has been found that t is no such custom among Hindoos in Zi Mymensingh or Tipperah. Consequent defendants are not bound to acknowledg right any more than a European would bound. It is not a right which a to the property. This was ruled in th Bench decision of this Court quoted i margin. There be such a cust the district of

13 Weekly Reporter, page 21, Full Bench.

The obligation may be limited to th dents of a district, or of a family, or particular class of persons, as stated b Justice Phear in his judgment in W Reporter, Volume VIII., page 446. B for the plaintiff in each case to show attaches to the defendant. The Lower is satisfied in this case that it does att the defendant, and, in my opinion, upo good grounds.

But it is said that, as the actual purc was a resident of Sylhet, the plai entitled to exercise the right. This be the case if the defendant Rookinee was the actual purchaser. But this found against the plaintiff. I can that the mere fact of the purchase made in Rookinee Kant's name mak difference. The plaintiff states that have been thereby deceived. This probable. It may give him some ri action if he has been injured thereby, does not bring into force the right of emption if it did not otherwise exist.

It is unnecessary to notice any points in this appeal. If the above the law is correct, and it is the view Full Bench of this Court, the plaintiff not succeed, and his special appeal therefore be dismissed with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur in dismissing appeal.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

ption — Khuleet—Shureek — Thorough-fares—Butwarra—Ambiguous plaint.

Case No. 1875 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Sarun, dated the 14th July 0, reversing a decision of the Subor-ale Judge of that District, dated the st December 1869.

a Puriag Dutt and another (two of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Shaikh Bundeh Hossein (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellants.

R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Respondent.

term *khuleet* applies to a pre-emptor in the first *i.e.*, a partner in the *substance* of a thing (called in Baillie's Digest of Mahomedan Law) as well a pre-emptor in the second degree, *i. e.*, a partner *rights.*

ic thoroughfares give no right of pre-emption.

right to pre-emption of a partner in the sub-applies where he is a partner in the whole pro-not where there has been a partition of the origi-ate under the Butwara Law, even though, not-ding the intention to make a complete partition, leteness has resulted from accident or oversight. ambiguous plaint is bad in form, a plaintiff g under two several rights being bound to state ct distinctly.

inslie, J.—THIS is a suit founded on of pre-emption. The plaintiff claims "shuffee khuleet," and has obtained a ee in the Lower Appellate Court.

The first ground of appeal taken by de-ants, special appellants, is that, whereas ntiff claims as "khuleet" or pre-emptor he second degree, it was not open to the ge to find that he was "shureek" or e-emptor in the first degree.

This objection is founded on the opening rds of Chapter 2 on Pre-emption in Bail-'s Digest of Mahomedan Law, page 476. 'shureek' (or partner in the substance a thing) "is preferred to a 'khuleet' (or partner in its rights as of water or way)." But it has been brought to our notice by the respondent's pleaders that in the original Arabic version of the Hedaya the word "khuleet" is used in both places, and "shureek" does not appear at all; and from my personal experience I incline to think that in the Behar districts "khuleet" is habitually used to represent a pre-emptor of the first decree. It certainly was so in Tirhoot in the case reported in 11 Weekly Reporter, page 169, and in a Sarun case (this appeal also comes from this district) to be found in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 484.

And as it appears that the term "khuleet" is used in the Hedaya to designate the person whom Baillie calls a "shureek," it cannot be said that it is improperly used in a plaint as a designation of a partner in the substance. No doubt, it requires some addition to make clear what the foundation of the plaintiff's alleged title is; but this may be either shown by express words, or it may be inferred from the written statement. In this suit it seems clear that the plaintiff was claiming as partner in the substance. It is, therefore, quite unnecessary to follow the appellant's pleader into a discussion of whether a pre-emptor by partnership in the appendages (one of the second degree) can enforce his claim in respect of anything but small parcels of land.

The respondent has attempted to set up an alternative case for the plaintiff, that he is "khuleet" either in respect of the substance or of the appendages

In the first place, I think a plaint that is ambiguous is bad in form. I do not mean to say that the plaintiff might not have claimed under two several rights; but if he intended to do so, he should have stated the fact distinctly that the adversary might have due notice, and the Court be enabled to raise the proper issues—and, in the second, I think that in this case the ambiguity really is non-existent, and is only an ingenious suggestion of the respondent's pleader. From the judgment of the first Court, it is quite clear that what the Court and the parties understood to be in issue was simply the right by partnership in the substance, and that no claim by partnership in the appendages was advanced under cover of the ambiguous expression "khuleet."

If it were possible at this stage to admit a claim as pre-emptor by right of way, it

would be very simply disposed of by pointing out that public thoroughfares give no right of pre-emption, and that village roads are in the nature of thoroughfares.

It remains to inquire whether the Judge was right in holding plaintiff to be a partner in the substance. The village was regularly partitioned by the Revenue Authorities. Plaintiff's interest is in one of the separated lots and defendant's in another; but it is urged that some 11 beegahs were left undivided. The greater portion consisted of the aforesaid roads and of land of mâfeedars and others over which the owners of the village exercised no rights of proprietorship; but the Judge finds that certain small portions recorded in Nos. 248, 251, and 314 of the butwara khusrah were left the joint property of the owners of the village, and on the existence of these lands he founds a title for the plaintiff by right of partnership in the substance. The Judge states that these lands are described in the partition-proceedings as worthless, and therefore not susceptible of being divided, but that one small plot of 6 cottahs, which was described as a whole, is now a fishery yielding rent and that on another, which was then a road, a ryot has since erected a house.

It is on this joint ownership that the respondent relies. The decision reported in 10 Weekly Reporter, page 314, is brought forward in support. In that case the reservation of the Julkur and Nimukshayer as common property after the division of the land was held to be sufficient foundation for the claim of the pre-emptor. I wish to offer no opinion on this point—this case is clearly distinguishable.

In that case the parties, by consent and deliberately, reserved a joint interest (if the subject-matter was capable of partition). In this case, it is stated by the Judge of the first Court that they divided Julkur, Nimukshayer, Kayaree, &c., in short, every thing which was worth dividing, and only remained jointly interested in what was either utterly worthless or (more probably) was treated as public property in the same way as the roads.

In short, the partition was as if two persons dividing a house and its curtilage carefully marked off each room and foot of ground, but forgot or neglected to sub-divide a worn and useless brick that had fallen from one of the walls, and was lying in a rubbish heap in some corner. Out of brick can we build a joint ownership portion of the thing sold, when one of two sells his separated share to a stra Yet this is just what the plaintiff see do in this case. It is said that the undi property is now of some value. But manifest that the intention was to ma complete separation, and that the incom ness, if such it can be called, was at th most the result of mere accident (as I said above, I think it extremely probable this land was treated as subject to of the public at large, and not the vate property of the landlords) and I not conceive that the respondent can tain that the oversight is to override express intention of the parties.

Mr. Twidale for the respondent has ed the instances mentioned in page Baillie's Mahomedan Law; but in my op those cases in no way support his conte but rather go against it. In the fir stance, when two persons holding la common divide it, but leave an existing and the land on which it stands undi as their common boundary, they delib ly and intentionally maintain a comm of interest for their mutual advantage. wall is an integral part of the proper each at the time of partition, and sequently the right of pre-emption by nership is held to attach. In the se case no community of interest is maint A new common interest is created, but not extend further than the intention parties at the time of creating it, *i. e.*, be the wall. The previous intention to completely is not affected, though the wall becomes a source of common So in this case, the common profit may have arisen since the separation, was intended to be complete at the ti was made, cannot operate to defeat th ginal intention.

I would, therefore, reverse the decisi the Lower Appellate Court, and dismis suit with costs in all Courts.

Loch, J.—I concur in making an reversing the judgment of the Lower A late Court as proposed by my colle The cases which rule that a partner in substance is entitled to exercise the rig pre-emption presume that the party claiming is a partner in the whole prop and those rulings are not applicable t case like the present, where the orig estate has been partitioned under

warra Law, and these separate estates ed out of the one original estate. The ost that can be conceded to the plaintiff right of pre-emption to so much of the as remains in the joint possession of and the vendor, but nothing beyond The appeal is decreed with costs in and the Lower Appellate Court, and the e of the first Court dismissing the suit costs is restored.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

—Section 348, Code of Civil Procedure.

Case No. 2028 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by e First Subordinate Judge of Shahabad, ed the 2nd June 1870, reversing a ision of the Moonsiff of Saseeram, ed the 1st October 1869.

amut Ritooraj and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

jagur Singh and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

o Taruck Nath Dutt for Appellants.

Rughoobuns Sahoy for Respondents.

suit to establish title to 3 annas and a fraction of , plaintiff, having obtained a decree for only 2 appealed; but the Lower Appellate Court reduced e allotted to the plaintiff.

that, as no question of the share to be awarded ed before the Lower Appellate Court by the t under Section 348, Code of Civil Procedure, ourt should not have interfered with the decision way it did.

ie, J.—In this suit the plaintiff to establish his title to 1 anna 7 pies 3 krants of mouzah Surenda, and 3 11 pies and 5 krants of mouzah , with a view to obtain partition of estate. The suit in respect of mouzah da was dismissed entirely, and in re- of mouzah Nowa a decree was given e first Court for 2 annas. The plaint- en filed an appeal, which was tried by the Subordinate Judge of Shahabad, who confirmed the decision of the first Court in respect of Surenda, and modified it in respect of mouzah Nowa by reducing the share allotted to the plaintiff to 1 anna and 9 pies. In this Court plaintiff only claims 1 anna 2 pies in mouzah Surenda, and the 2 annas of mouzah Nowa awarded by the Moonsiff. No question as to the share to be awarded in mouzah Nowa appears to have been raised by the respondent before the Lower Appellate Court under Section 348 of the Civil Procedure Code. The Subordinate Judge, therefore, should not have interfered with the judgment of the first Court in respect of that mouzah; no attempt has been made in this Court to support his judgment in respect of it, and it must be set aside.

As regards mouzah Surenda, it appears that there were three brothers, Kashee, Gunga, and Gopal, each holding a share of 1 anna and 2 pies. The shares of Kashee and Gopal were sold in execution of decree, and purchased by Hur Suhae and others; but the share of Gunga has remained intact up to the present time. Subsequently to the execution-sale, a suit was brought by the plaintiffs against the representatives of the auction-purchasers to establish their (plaintiffs') right to continue in possession, on the ground that the auction-purchasers had lost their rights by neglecting to enter on the lands sold. This suit was dismissed. In it the plaintiffs claimed to establish their title to 1 anna and 9 pies out of the shares of Kashee and Gopal which had been sold. They then set out, as they have done in this case, that each of the three brothers, Kashee, Gunga, and Gopal, held a 1 anna and 2 pies share, and this does not seem to have been contradicted either in that case or the present one. No question was raised in that suit as to the rights which the plaintiff derived from Gunga. The only question was as to the shares of the other two brothers. The fact that that suit was dismissed in no way affects the claim now set up; and the Moonsiff appears to have been in error when he supposed that the plaintiffs in that suit were stating their entire interest in the estate as 1 anna and 9 pies, whereas from a perusal of the plaint it appears that, in addition to the 1 anna and 9 pies, the subject of that suit, there was another share of 1 anna and 2 pies, concerning which there was then no dispute or suit.

The Subordinate Judge has followed in the same error. No one appears in this Court to oppose the claim of the plaintiff in respect of the 1 anna and 2 pies share of mouza Surenda. We, therefore, think that the appeal must be decreed, and that the plaintiff must obtain a declaration of his title in respect of 1 anna and 2 pies of mouzah Surenda and 2 annas of mouzah Nowa. The appellant is entitled to his costs of this Court and of the Court below.

Jackson, J.—I concur.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Secondary evidence—Copy of a copy—Lower Court's decision—Legal presumption—Hindoo Law—Shebait—Alienation—Putnees.

Case No. 2191. of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Rungpore, dated the 15th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Officiating Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 14th April 1869.

Tahboonissa Bibee and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Koomar Sham Kishore Roy (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Sreenath Dass and *Luleet Chunder Sein* for Appellants.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Respondent.

Where the Lower Appellate Court regarded the evidence as proving that there was an *urpunnamah*, and that it could not be found on search, that Court was held to have done right in accepting as secondary evidence the authenticated copy of an authenticated copy of that document.

It must be presumed in law that the judgment of the Lower Court is right, until the contrary is shown. If there is any doubt in the case, the benefit of the doubt ought to be given to the respondent, and not to the appellant.

Under the Hindoo Law, the Shebait or trustee manager of an endowment is competent to alienate a reasonable portion of the property, if such alienation is absolutely required by the necessities of the ma ment, *e. g.*, restoration of an image or tenant pair of a temple.

The grant of a putnee tenure by a Shebait valid.

Mitter, J.—The plaintiff in this c the purchaser of an estate paying re to Government at a sale held under the visions of Act XI. of 1859, and he br this suit for the purpose of setting a putnee tenure created by one Chunder Surmah in favor of the defendant, and cially registered in the Collector's prior to the purchase of the plaintiff the provisions of Section 39 of that The plaint alleges that the property in tion belonged, in fact, to the idol Doya Dabee; that Chunder Nath was simpl manager of the endowed property; an no permanent alienation like the crea the putnee which was alleged to have made by Chunder Nath was legally b against the idol, who was, in fact, the defaulter; and that the plaintiff was fore entitled to recover khâs poss of the property, treating the putne question as a nullity upon the ground it was created by a person withou right or title whatever.

The case set up by the defendant wa the property was not debuttur; that C der Nath was the real owner of that pr ty; and that, even if Chunder Nath we manager of the idol Doya Moyee Dabe putnee was created for such purpos would justify such alienations under Hindoo Law, which is the law accordi which disputes relating to the debuttur perty are to be determined.

The Court of first instance came t conclusion that the putnee was a valid nee; that the debuttur was a *nominal* (using the English word "*nominal*" i middle of its decision which was writ Bengalee); and that the person who reall the beneficial enjoyment of it was no idol Doya Moyee Dabee, but Chunder the lessor of the defendant.

On appeal, the Judge, after accepting copy of a copy of an alleged *urpunna* by which the debuttur was said to been created, came to the conclusion the evidence on both sides was nearly lanced; that under that circumstance burden of proof ought to be shifted on defendant; that if the burden of proof w thus shifted, no sufficient case is made

him to rebut the *primâ-facie* evidence by the plaintiff; and the Judge therefore that the property was a *bonâ-fide* ttur property of which Chunder Nath, essor of the defendant, was simply the ger. The Judge has further found according to a decision of the Privy il reported in page 18, Volume XIII., ly Reporter, he had every reason to that the creation of a putnee by a it was altogether null and void, even h it might have been made under stances of necessity. The Judge goes on to say that, even if such an tion would be justified by a special of necessity, the case of necessity set the defendant was not sufficient.

der the above state of facts, the simple ons which we have to determine in ecial appeal are, *1st*, whether the find- n the question of debuttur has been d at by the Judge on legal evidence n a legal manner.

dly.—Whether, assuming the property to *bonâ-fide* debuttur property, a putnee ed by a Shebait would be absolutely and void in law, even though made un- circumstances of special necessity, and

dly.—Whether the case of necessity p, and, as the Judge afterwards says, out by the defendant in this case, is ent under the Hindoo Law to justify enation.

think the learned Judge in the Court has committed errors in law on all points.

ith reference to the *first* point, the e admits that the evidence was equally ced, and it is clear from his judgment he would not have thought that the nce adduced by the plaintiff was suffi- to shift the burden of proof on the dant, if he had not accepted the copy e copy of the *urpunnamah* above re- d to. We do not mean to say that the e was wrong in admitting that docu- in evidence in the first instance. It offered in the Court below, and there is nce on the record, *viz.*, that of Chun- Nath, which has been held by the Judge prove that there was an *urpunnamah*, that that *urpunnamah* could not be out or discovered by him on search. der such circumstances, the Judge was in accepting secondary evidence, and secondary evidence the authenticated copy of an authenticated copy is admissible under the rulings of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council. But we are clearly of opinion that the Judge ought not to have acted upon that deed when it is admitted that *no* evidence whatever was given to prove that a deed of that description, containing the terms and provisions embodied in it, had been actually executed in favor of Chunder Nath by the former owner of the property. It being clear, therefore, that the Judge was wrong in acting upon this document, we think he should not have reversed the judgment of the first Court in the absence of the *urpunnamah*, for the duty of the Appellate Court, as laid down by the Privy Council, is not to interfere with the judgment of the first Court until it is perfectly satisfied in its own mind that the conclusion arrived at by the first Court is erroneous. If there is any doubt in the case, the benefit of that doubt ought to be given to the respondent, and not to the appellant, for it must be presumed in law that the judgment of the Lower Court is right until the contrary is shown. No doubt, the Appellate Court may make further inquiries; but such inquiries ought to be made with discretion, and only in those cases in which the Appellate Court finds itself unable to do justice to the parties on the evidence and material as they stand upon the record.

Assuming, however, that the finding on the question of debuttur is correct, we cannot agree with the Judge in holding that it has been finally decided by the Privy Council that a permanent alienation such as the creation of a putnee made by the *Shebait* of an endowed property is absolutely null and void, even though it be made under special circumstances of necessity. It is true that the idol must be treated in law as the owner of the property, and it is also true that the *Shebait* must be looked upon in no other light than the *Shebait* or trustee manager of that endowed property; but under the Hindoo Law, a *Shebait* is competent to alienate a reasonable portion of the property, if such alienation is absolutely required by the necessities of the management. This point has been so ruled by this Court, and it is therefore unnecessary for us to dwell upon it any further. The case referred to by the Judge is not at all in point. In that case their Lordships in the Privy Council had simply to deal with the question whether a certain alienation had been actually made by a person who held

the property in dispute simply in the capacity of a *Shebait;* and in dealing with that question, their Lordships observed in the course of the discussion that such an alienation would raise a presumption of breach of trust on the part of the manager, and their Lordships would not, therefore, presume that the manager in that particular case actually executed the deed in question.

But this decision actually shows that there may be cases in which the grant of a putnee tenure by a *Shebait* would be valid; for if such grants were absolutely null and void, it would not have been necessary for their Lordships in the Judicial Committee to consider whether the grant in that particular case had been actually made or not.

On the 3rd and last point, we observe that the case of necessity set up by the defendant has not been rejected by the Judge as untrue. The Judge believes the testimony of Chunder Nath, and he expressly uses the words "made out" with reference to the defendant's case, as we have already observed. Now, accepting the evidence of Chunder Nath as true, it appears that the putnee in question was granted for the purpose of raising funds to repair the temple of the idol, and to restore its image which had been destroyed by some accident after the performance of the not inexpensive ceremonies prescribed by the Hindoo Law in such cases. According to these circumstances, it is quite clear that the very existence of the idol was at stake; and if the destroyed image of the idol had not been restored, and its temple which was unfit for habitation repaired, Chunder Nath could not have been in a position to fulfil the trust. The power then of Chunder Nath to resort to an alienation of a portion of the endowed property in order to raise funds for such purposes would necessarily follow under the Hindoo Law which is applicable to such trust-property, for Chunder Nath was not bound to provide for such expenses from his personal funds. It has been contended that the Judge did not accept the case of necessity set up by the defendant; but this objection has been sufficiently disposed of above.

On the whole, then, we think, concurrently with the opinion expressed on this point by the Court of first instance, that the plaintiff is not entitled to have the putnee set aside as invalid. We accordingly reverse the decision of the Judge, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit with costs of all Courts.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarka Mitter, *Judges.*

Zemindar—Ijaradar (farmer).

Case No. 2196 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Officiating Judge of Rajsh dated the 9th August 1870, rever decision of the Deputy Collector of District, dated the 30th March 1870.

Kristo Soondur Sandyal and anothe (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Koomar Chunder Nath Roy (Plaint *Respondent.*

Baboo Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee fo Appellants.

Baboo Sreenath Doss for Respondent

The right of a landlord to receive rent from a t depends upon his securing to the latter quiet posse and giving him proper and lawful means of re rents from the tenants.

Bayley, J.—In this case the pl sued the defendants, ijaradars, for a of rent.

The defendants' case was that the pe on the part of the plaintiff came and possessed the defendants, turning them o their cutcherry, and forbidding the ryo pay rents to the defendants, and othe interfering with the proper collectio their rents.

The first Court gave the plaintiff a cree for Rupees 217-3-9, which was acc by the agent of the defendants as co It found that no means had been afford plaintiff by the defendants to ascertain amount of rent due to the defendants the ryots with reference to the portio period for which the plaintiff had dispos ed the defendants.

The Lower Appellate Court, in remar upon the evidence taken by the Am states: "That evidence confirms the v "have already stated as my impression "the evidence taken in Court, *i. e.,* "there was no formal dispossession by

d

ajah, plaintiff, but that the ryots were couraged to pay their rents directly to e Rajah. Most of the witnesses admit- that the ijaradars were in possession; ers did not know which party was possession; many stated that rents e not now being paid, and nearly all lared that the Rajah had sent for r dakhilas, and that the dakhilas were with him." Then the Lower Ap- e Court goes on: "It is quite clear , while there had been no formal eject- nt, the Rajah, plaintiff, had unjustifiably rfered in the collection of rents, had ouraged the ryots to deposit their s with him as superior landlord, and , for the same reason, collected their hilas, probably with the view of de- ining how far the arrears of the far- s were due to the non-payment of by the ryots." The Lower Appellate , however, held that the farmers, defend- were in possession, and were liable for ists of rents which had accrued since lleged dispossession. Further on in dgment, the Lower Appellate Court ob- s that the defendants had their re- at law by suing the defaulting ryots rrears, and that they could not plead as the amount they had paid to the or landlord.

w, the real right of the zemindar to e rents from the farmers depends upon ecuring to the latter quiet possession, iving him proper and lawful means of g rents from the ryots. In the pre- se, it is clear from the findings of the Appellate Court, as quoted above, that iet possession and proper and legal s of collecting rents have been directly ed with.

is said that the Rajah, plaintiff, received only as depositary, but he refused to e his books or to show that credit was in any way to the farmers for the received. It is quite clear that the t of rents by the zemindar from the was a direct interference with the rs' right. It is no answer to say that rmers must pay to the zemindar after- . The contract with the farmers was hey should be guaranteed in quiet and urbed possession and means of collect- ents direct as was defendant's right. ever, it seems that the finding of the r Appellate Court is against the evi- which the Court itself records.

We, therefore, reverse the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, and affirm the decision of the first Court with costs of this appeal and of the Lower Appellate Court.

The 2nd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Right of occupancy—Ejectment.

Case No. 2204 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Rungpore, dated the 13th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 15th May 1869.

Hyder Buksh and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Bhoopendro Deb Coomar (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Appellants.

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for Respondent.

A zemindar cannot eject tenants who have been holding or cultivating for a period of more than 12 years, even though they were originally tenants-at-will.

Mitter, J.—We think this case ought to be sent back to the Lower Appellate Court for the purpose of determining whether the defendants, special appellants, have acquired a right of occupancy in the property in dispute under the provisions of Section 6, Act X. of 1859. The defendants might have been originally tenants-at-will; but if they and their ancestors have been holding or cultivating the lands in dispute for a period of more than 12 years, the zemindar, who is the lessor of the plaintiffs in this case, could not have ejected them under the law, and the plaintiffs, who derive their title from the zemindar, would also stand in the same position. From the tenor of the Judge's decision, it appears that one-half of the jote at least has been in the possession of the defendants and their ancestors for a very long

time. With reference to the other half, no express opinion has been given by the Judge as to the length of time for which the defendants and their predecessors have been in possession. The case is, therefore, remanded to the Judge for the purpose of trying whether the defendants and their predecessors have been in possession of the disputed lands as ryots for a period of more than 12 years or not. If this question is determined in the affirmative, the present suit must be dismissed, because the defendants would be entitled to hold the lands subject to the payment of a fair and equitable rent, if their tenure is not otherwise protected from enhancement.

Remand accordingly.

The 3rd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Intermediate holders—Lessor and Lessee—Limitation.

Case No. 1817 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 8th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 15th December 1869.

Shaikh Nujmoddeen Hossein (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mr. Lloyd (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. C. Piffard for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Respondent.

Intermediate holders setting up as mokurrureedars are not debarred from pleading limitation against their landlord.

Ainslie, J.—THE plaintiff, who is special appellant in this Court, instituted this suit to eject the defendant from 33 beegahs of land on the allegation that this land was held by Justin Finch on a lease for life, and that the tenancy determined on his death in 1861. No copy or counterpart of the lease has been produced, and it is now admitted that there is no such lease. Defendants have put forward a lease granted in 1794 to one Louis Kech or Kirke, assigned by him Joseph Finch in 1808. On the produc of this document, the plaintiff denied genuineness, and now contends further even if it be genuine, it creates no per nent tenure.

The case of the plaintiff, as stated in Court by Mr. Piffard, is as follows: plaintiff having acquired the estate upon Geoffrey Finch, the owner at that of the Shahpore Oondee factory, to show title to hold certain lands: he was informed that a mokurruree lease in of Justin Finch was in his possession but that it was then in Calcutta; Finch promised to produce it. In ance on this assertion and promise, pl iff received rents, and granted receipt for a permanent tenure. This went on 1241 (1833-34) to 1861, when a partiti the estate in which the Finches had acq a share took place, and it became nece to examine the various deeds affecting property. Plaintiff then learnt that was no mokurruree deed in favor of J Finch, but was informed that he had a for life, and he now seeks to eject the fendants who have held the factory Justin Finch's death. It is contended Mr. Piffard that no question of limit arises when the defendant admits plaintiff is his landlord; and, secondly, even if limitation could be pleaded, the pl iff would be in time, as he was kept asserting his rights by a fraud, and that discovery of that fraud only took in 1861.

The right to re-enter on the expiry terminable lease granted to Justin F is abandoned, and the case, as now put, the form of a claim to a discovery of title of the defendants and a trial of title that may be set up.

It appears that the factory was before 1798, when the plaintiff's father quired the village at a revenue-sale. greater part of the land in suit is cov by the buildings connected with the facto and as Mr. Piffard, for the special appell abandons the claim to eject, the only qu tion to be tried is whether the case put by defendants is genuine and valid.

Of its genuineness there seems to be doubt whatever. It can only be in resp of this deed that the Judge observes: "It "clearly proved who the original mokurru "dars were, and that they were succeed

due course by Joseph Finch, then by eoffrey Finch, after whom Frederick and stin held undisturbed possession of the ds."

regards the validity of the deed, the e observes that it is needless to discuss e suit being barred by limitation.

is admitted that the plaintiff's father ired the estate in which the lands in nte lie at a revenue-sale in 1798, and the factory was then built. It has not shown how the property was dealt with he next 35 years, but from 1833 it was d as a mokurruree, and this continued nged down to 1861 for nearly 27

re, if ever, limitation must operate to nt the landlord from denying the nature tenure.

e rule that a tenant cannot plead limi- against his landlord, as laid down in eekly Reporter, page 395, in which ous decisions are cited, appears to be general in its terms. That this view not taken by their Lordships of the Council in the case of * Rajah Saheb dh Sein *versus* Doorga Pershad ree, and in the same *versus* Run door Singh, 12 Moore, pp. 323 and is clearly deducible from the judgments ose cases, though not expressly stated many words.

e Lower Courts having found on the of limitation in favor of the respondents, claimed as mokurrureedars, their Lord- observe in the first case that there is idence to show that the appellant had knowledge of the claims so made at any more than 12 years before institution it, and therefore his suit was within ; and in the second that the knowledge e mokurruree lease had been wrongly red from a circumstance which did not nt the inference.

w, if there was any general rule of law hich a person claiming as mokurrureedar barred from pleading limitation against landlord, surely their Lordships would disposed of these cases on that ground, would not have gone into the question notice of claim. The fact that their ships considered it necessary to inquire into the date on which the landlord received notice that the intermediate holders were setting up as mokurrureedars with a view to determine the issue of limitation, shows clearly that the issue is one which can be raised between parties so related. Having this authority to support the view now taken, it is not necessary to discuss the question at length; but I must confess that I do not see on what grounds it can be said that a mokurrureedar's title, by which the landlord's power to deal with his estate at his own pleasure and to the best advantage is limited, is not *pro tanto* an adverse title. It has been contended that a title to be adverse must be such as is inconsistent with any title whatever in the opposite party, and the cases cited appear at first sight to go to that length. If on a close examination these cases appeared to support the contention, and there was no decision of the superior Court on the point, I should be inclined to submit the question to a Full Bench; but as matters stand, it appears to me that it is clearly settled by the decision of the Judicial Committee, and that we have only to follow that decision. I therefore hold that this suit is barred by limitation, unless the plaintiff can remove the bar by his plea of fraud which remains to be considered.

Mr. Piffard contends that there is evidence that the consent of the landlord to the holding of Justin Finch as a mokurrureedar was obtained by a false statement in respect of the existence of a mokurruree lease said to be in Calcutta, and that this evidence stands uncontradicted. On this point the Judge has recorded no opinion, but it is unnecessary to remand the case; for on looking at the evidence, it is clear that the plea cannot be maintained. The point, though not now taken for the first time, was evidently not much relied on below; and the bare statement of Waezooddeen is so inconsistent with the course of dealing between the parties, and it is so utterly improbable that the landlords, who have held the estate from 1798, and have for so long been treating the tenure as a mokurruree, and have not even attempted to show that at any time since 1798 the land in suit has been held on a lease for a term, should have really been led to believe that any lease to Justin Finch existed, of which they had no personal knowledge; that the statement of this witness cannot possibly support a finding that a fraud was practised on the plaintiff, by which he was prevented from ascertaining the true state of

* 12 W. R., P. C., p. 6.

the case, and that such fraud was only discovered in 1861.

In my opinion, the appeal must be dismissed with costs.

Jackson, J.—I concur in holding that the plaintiff in this case is barred by lapse of time.

By his own showing he had notice so long ago as 1833 that the defendant claimed to hold the land upon the very title which the defendant now asserts, namely, a mokurruree lease; and he permitted the defendant to continue holding, as he had previously held for five and thirty years, down to the bringing of the present suit—a period of about 10 years.

I think, therefore, that the only possible conclusion was the dismissal of the suit.

The appeal will consequently be dismissed with costs.

The 3rd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Sale under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865—Ejectment.

Cases Nos. 2045 to 2050 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 23rd August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Ghattal, dated the 27th June 1870.

Raj Kishen Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Dusruth Sootrodhur and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Dwarkanath Sein for Respondents.

Where the rights and interests of a judgment-debtor are sold in execution under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865, the tenure itself does not pass, much less does it pass free from all incumbrances; and the purchaser is not entitled to eject tenants who have been occupying and cultivating the land for more than 12 years.

Kemp, J.—This suit was brought by plaintiff, who, after resuming certain raj lands, brought rent-suits, obtained cree, and in execution purchased, as he the land free of all incumbrances under VIII. of 1865. He now sues several who are represented in the several Nos. 2045 to 2050, to eject them from tenures.

Both Courts have held that these are khoodkasht ryots; that they have in occupancy of the land for more th years; that they have built houses upon some expense; that the plaintiff is n titled to eject them summarily; and th is only entitled to receive rent from the

Turning to the sale-certificate, we that the rights and interests of the ment-debtor only passed to the plaintif there is nothing which, according wording of the certificate, shows th tenure was sold, and much less that sold free of all incumbrances. On the of the case, we have no doubt that the sion of the Judge is a just and proper sion. We have been shown two pott two out of the six cases before us. pottah is for 5 cottahs of land, and the for 1 beegah 11 cottahs. In the pott 1 beegah 11 cottahs, there is a distinct tion made that the land was taken, no for dwelling but also for agricultural poses; and in the pottah for 5 cottah though it is mentioned that the land is for "boodbash," it is also recited th land is bastoo and oodbastoo; and it c therefore have been taken for purely ing purposes. Moreover, there are terms in the pottah quite inconsistent any such supposition; for instance, the p contains a clause that the ryot will not the right to any claim for abatement o count of fallow lands, droughts, inunda and the like. If the land was taken dwelling-house, and for that purpose such a clause would be quite inconsi In the other pottah, it is very clear th could not have been taken only for dw purposes. A decision has been quo show that, under Section 6 of Act 1859, no occupancy-right can be acq in lands taken for purely building pur

That decision does not apply to the p case, and moreover this case is governed by Act X. of 1859, but by Act VIII. of 1 and we find that the plaintiff has not b the tenure free of incumbrances, and is entitled to eject the tenants who have b

pying and cultivating the lands for more 12 years. He may be entitled, as the r Courts have held him to be entitled, ceive rent from them; but he is certain- entitled to eject them summarily.

e special appeals, namely, Nos. 2045, 2047, 2048, 2049, and 2050 of 1870, herefore, dismissed with costs.

The 3rd March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

on 354, Act VIII. of 1859—Procedure.

Case No. 2052 of 1870.

l *Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Judge of East Burdwan, d the 14th June 1870, reversing a sion of the Moonsiff of Aosgaon, d the 3rd August 1869.*

esh Chunder Roy and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

rdun Hajrah and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

o *Doorga Mohun Dass* and *Judoonath Mookerjee* for Appellants.

aboo *Grish Chunder Chatterjee* for Respondents.

a party fails to file a memorandum of objec- der Section 354, Act VIII. of 1859, the Appellate not at liberty to decide the case *ex parte* with- dering the evidence.

p, *J.*—This was a case in which the s sued to have their right of irriga- the tank of the defendant declared. the case was first before the Moonsiff, y issue that was raised in the remand- was raised in the first instance, for the Moonsiff says that the plaintiffs have to prove three things to have their right of irrigation from the disputed tank declared—1st, that they have irrigated their lands with the waters of the disputed tank for 12 years or upwards prior to the institution of the suit; 2nd, that they so irrigated their lands during the said period, that is to say, for 12 years, without interruption; and 3rd, they should further show that they had the undisputed use of the waters for that time.

In the first instance, the Moonsiff found that the evidence of the plaintiff's witnesses was very confused as to the period during which they, the plaintiffs, had irrigated their lands with the waters of the disputed tank, and that they had not proved their right of user; further that the evidence of the witnesses examined by the plaintiffs, so far from supporting their case in some respects, damaged the case of the plaintiffs, and he dismissed the suit. Then the case came on appeal before the Judge, and the Judge remanded it, and said the following issue must be tried, namely, whether the plaintiffs have a prescriptive right to irrigate their lands from the water of the defendant's tank, and whether they have exercised this right without interruption for a period of 12 years previous to the date of their cause of action. Now, that is the very point that had been already raised and tried by the Moonsiff, and the remand does not appear to us to have been in any way necessary. The present Judge, however, agreed with his predecessor that the issue he had drawn up was the proper one to be tried, and therefore he referred the case to the Moonsiff for re-trial under Section 354, and, strange to say, the Moonsiff, the same Baboo who first tried the case, comes to quite an opposite conclusion upon the same issue and on the same evidence from that he had formerly come to. After the remand, the Moonsiff held that the plaintiffs had made out their case, and says: "Indeed, the wit-"nesses of the plaintiffs did not in their "former depositions make the above state-"ment," namely, that the plaintiffs had uninterruptedly irrigated their land from the tank in dispute for 12 years; "but as "the point was not distinctly mooted in the "issues formerly framed, and the witnesses "were not especially examined on it, they "had deposed in the above manner," and I, "therefore, think my former judgment was "wrong." Now, it is very clear, as already

shown, that the same question was distinctly mooted; and it is, therefore, difficult to understand how the Moonsiff could have changed his opinion so completely, unless he considered that, because the case was remanded, he was bound to find for the plaintiffs.

In special appeal the first point taken is that no time was fixed by the Appellate Court within which the parties to the suit might file their memorandum of objections to the finding of the first Court.

Now, this ground was not taken in the grounds of special appeal; but even if it had been taken, we think there is no force in it whatever. It is clear that the 2nd of June was fixed for the hearing of the case, and the case was not decided until the 14th of June; and therefore there can be no doubt that the special appellants had plenty of time within which to file their memorandum of objections. Moreover, we find that the Judge says that the case was returned by the Moonsiff on the 14th of May, and the 2nd of June fixed for the hearing, and no memorandum of objections had been filed up to that date; and therefore it is clear from what the Judge says that the 2nd of June was fixed as the time within which such objections might be filed.

The second objection taken in special appeal appears to us to have considerable force, namely, that the Judge is wrong in law in holding that, as no objections had been put in by the petitioners to the finding of the Moonsiff, it was not necessary for him to look into the case; that he should have looked into the evidence, and considered whether or not the finding arrived at by the Moonsiff was correct. On the other side, a decision has been quoted to be found in Volume IX., Weekly Reporter, p. 438. In that case, the time fixed for filing the memorandum of objections appears to have been one month from the time the finding of the Moonsiff was submitted. Mr. Doyne in that case applied to be heard to object to the finding of the Moonsiff without any memorandum of objections having been filed by his client. Mr. Peterson opposed the application, and the Court said that they declined to hear Mr. Doyne. But the circumstances of that case are not before us; no reasons are given why the Court declined to hear Mr. Doyne, neither is the argument of the Counsel on both sides quoted; and Mr. Justice Loch, one of the Judges who sat on that occasion, has been consulted, and from what has fallen from learned Judge we may say that it was the intention of the Court to take the treme view contended for by the other namely, that because a party has not a memorandum of objections under Se 354, the Appellate Court is at liber decide the appeal without looking at evidence. The Section itself says either party "may," within a time fixed by the Appellate Court, file a me randum of any objections to the find and after the expiration of the perio fixed, the Appellate Court shall proce determine the appeal. Therefore, unde Section, it is optional to the parties to not to file such memorandum of objec and there is nothing in the Section says that the Court, in the absence o memorandum of objections, shall proc decide the case *ex parte*. On the co the Section says that the Appellate shall proceed to determine the appeal.

Then it is said by the other side that, admitting this view of the law, the app has no ground for special appeal, inas as the Judge has come to a finding upo evidence, and that he has determine appeal. We think that he has not do in this case. As already shown, the Moonsiff who tried the suit before th mand completely changed his opinion remand, and certainly his reasons changing his opinions are, to say the le it, most unsatisfactory and quite incons with his former judgment—a judgme rived at on the very same issue as that by the Judge on remand. Then the says: "No objection has been file either party to the finding of the Mo and I, therefore, *determine* the appeal." using this word "determine," it seems bable that the Judge had Section 354 b him at the time of writing his decision he says: "I determine the appeal by ho that the Moonsiff's last decision is co and that the plaintiff is entitled to in his land from the tank in question;" b reasons whatever are given why he siders the Moonsiff's decision to be o and his former decision wrong, and wh plaintiff is entitled to irrigate his from the defendant's tank. We, ther remand the case for the Judge to giv reasons in full for holding the last dec of the Moonsiff to be correct, and to the case after considering the whole cas

Costs to follow the result.

b

The 25th February 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and E. Jackson, *Judges*

—Exhibit—Document filed by witness—Court Fees Act.

Reference to the High Court by the Officiating Judge of Kishnaghur, dated the 14th February 1871.

Anonymous.

Stamp-duty is not chargeable on an application by witness for the return of a document filed by him in obedience to a summons.

Reference.—I HAVE the honor to apply for instruction as to whether an application by witness for the return of a document produced by him in obedience to a summons, and filed with the records of a case, is chargeable with stamp-duty or not.

It seems to me that the question is whether such an application comes properly under Section 19, Clause 14, or under Schedule 2, No. I., of the Court Fees Act. I think the words "or in respect of the production or filing of any exhibit" in the latter place hardly apply to the present case; still it seems a hardship that a witness should be obliged to apply on a stamp. I have, therefore, the honor to request the instructions of the Court on the point.

Opinion of the High Court.

Norman, C. J.—I think that stamp-duty is not chargeable on a request by a witness for the return of a document which has been produced by him.

L. S. Jackson, J.—*Primâ facie* it would appear that a document produced by a witness summoned for the purpose under Sections 149-153, Code of Civil Procedure, does not stand in the same category as an exhibit produced and filed by a *party* under Section 135, or earlier Section; and he would apparently be entitled to have it handed back to him at the conclusion of the trial.

Section 135, however, undoubtedly provides for the retention of documents, whether produced by parties to the suit or by *other persons*, till after appeal when they are to be given back on application, subject to the discretion conferred as to exhibits by Section 136.

But I see nothing in the Court Fees Act which makes such application by a person, who is not a party to the suit, chargeable with stamp-duty.

It is not, I think, in any sense an application in the suit, and it would be extremely hard if a man had to pay stamp-duty for getting back his own document, when he had no interest in the suit. It is bad enough to have one's documents detained for other people's convenience.

E. Jackson, J.—I quite concur.

The 27th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Sale for arrears of rent—Incumbrances.

Case No. 1729 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 7th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 16th March 1870.

Mohesh Chunder Banerjee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Chunder Monee Debee and others (Plaintiffs), and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Sham Lall Mitter and *Mohendro Lall Seal* for Appellant.

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Respondents.

Case.—A landlord who purchased a tenure which had been sold in satisfaction of his own decree for rent having objected to the attempted possession of a mortgagee who was executing a decree for foreclosure, a suit was framed under Section 239, Code of Civil Procedure, which having come up in appeal to the High Court was remanded for the purpose of determining whether the lease, on which the lands had been held, contained any stipulation reserving a right of sale for arrears of rent.

It having been found that there was no such reservation, the tenure was held to have been sold subject to incumbrances, and the purchaser to have been bound by the decree of foreclosure passed against the former holder.

Ainslie, J.—THIS suit was remanded on the 1st of December 1869 by Justices L. S.

Jackson and Glover,* with a direction to the Lower Appellate Court to try the question whether the lease, on which the lands had been held, contained any stipulation reserving a right of sale for arrears of rent; and a further issue was also laid down regarding which nothing has been said in the present appeal.

The Lower Appellate Court has now found that there was nothing in the lease which reserved a right of sale to the zemindar, and consequently holds that the tenure was sold subject to incumbrances. Against this decision the special appellant has urged two grounds of appeal, 1st, that the onus of proof has been put on the wrong party; that he was called upon to produce the kubooleut, whereas the opposite party should have been called upon to produce the pottah. As in this case the auction-purchaser, special appellant, is the zemindar, he must have proofs in his own hands equal to any that can be found in the hands of the opposite party, and there was no occasion to call upon the opposite party to prove his (special appellant's) case.

The other ground is, that with reference to a decision to be found in the 6th Weekly Reporter, page 197, the appellant was not bound by the decree of foreclosure passed against the former holder. It appears to us that the facts in this case are not similar to the facts of that case. Here there was a decree of foreclosure which entirely extinguished the rights of the debtor. In that case there was a simple decree against the debtor making him personally responsible for a portion of the allowance due to the widow of one of the members of a joint Hindoo family in consequence of his purchase of the share of another member of the family; but it is distinctly stated in the judgment quoted that the decree did not directly affect or bind the land, but merely bound the judgment-debtor personally, and prevented him from denying his liability. We, therefore, think that the cases are not analogous, and that this issue will not affect the present case. The special appellant has also sought to argue a further objection, as to the collusiveness of the decree obtained by the opposite party; but as that point is not taken in the grounds of appeal, we decline to hear him on this ground.

We dismiss the special appeal with costs.

* 12 W. R., p. 460.

The 3rd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and W. Al[illegible]

Judges.

Joint Hindoo family — Separation—On[illegible] probandi.

Case No. 2055 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pas[illegible] the Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the [illegible] June 1870, reversing a decision o[illegible] Moonsiff of Ookrah, dated the [illegible] November 1869.

Prem Chund Dan and others (Plaintif[illegible]

Appellants,

versus

Darimba Debia (one of the Defendan[illegible]

Respondent.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Bose for Appellants.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Seal for Respondent.

In a suit involving the question whether certai[illegible] perty which was sold in execution was the jud[illegible] debtor's own separate property or the joint prop[illegible] plaintiffs and judgment-debtor, no presumption i[illegible] of the property being joint was held to arise fr[illegible] act of plaintiffs and the judgment-debtor being [illegible] bers of a Hindoo family; and as plaintiffs had [illegible] alleged separation, the onus was held to have [illegible] rightly placed on them of proving that the property [illegible] held jointly.

Ainslie, J.—THE question in this su[illegible] whether certain property, which was sold [illegible] execution of a decree as the property of [illegible] judgment-debtor, Heera Lall Dhur, was [illegible] own separate property or the joint prop[illegible] of the plaintiffs and the judgment-debtor.

The Lower Appellate Court has found [illegible] the plaintiffs have failed to prove that [illegible] property was held jointly by the w[illegible] family. The substantial ground of ap[illegible] is that the onus has been thrown upon [illegible] wrong party: there is also an objec[illegible] taken that the finding of the Lower Court [illegible] wrong, inasmuch as the Judge seem[illegible] hold that documentary evidence is absol[illegible] necessary to prove the title of the plaint[illegible] On the second point, it is only necessar[illegible] say that we do not read the judgment [illegible] the Court below as laying down a rule t[illegible] documentary evidence is absolutely nec[illegible] sary. It merely amounts to this, that the o[illegible] evidence before the Judge, unsupported as [illegible] was by any documentary evidence, was i[illegible] sufficient to satisfy his mind that the plaint[illegible] iffs had made out their case.

s to the onus in this case, no presump- arises from the fact of the plaintiffs and judgment-debtor being members of a oo family that the property was joint rty; for it is admitted that 25 years here was a partial separation of the , when one brother, Puteet Dhur, ut; and it appears from the evidence keer Dhur, the son of Puteet, that has been another separation between aintiffs some four years ago, and that paration took place before the sale of Lall Dhur's property. It is also per- clear from a petition put in in the of the execution of a decree obtained rimba Debia that the plaintiffs then d separation. Under these circum- s, it was for them to prove how the ion was effected; and if any lands re- d in the joint occupation of all the rs of the family after the separation, ffs would have to show distinctly lands these were. The onus, there- was rightly placed upon the plaintiffs. her they have succeeded in proving hey had to prove is a question of fact, point of law arises, and we cannot, in appeal, interfere with the judgment of urt below on the facts.

appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 4th March 1870.

Present:

Hon'ble W. Markby and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

t of sale—Conveyance—Registration.

Case No. 2447 of 1869.

Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated rd July 1869, reversing a decision of Moonsiff of that District, dated the 17th ruary 1869.

a Churn Neogy (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

obin Chunder Dhobah and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Ashootosh Dhur for Appellant.

Baboos Kishen-Succa Mookerjee and *Poorno Chunder Shome* for Respondents.

In a suit upon a contract in which defendant, after receiving an advance of purchase-money, had promised to convey certain land to plaintiff on payment of the balance, the alternative being that, if he did not execute the conveyance, the contract would itself operate as a conveyance:

HELD that the document between the parties, though in form a contract for sale, was, in fact, a conveyance under which plaintiff could hold against subsequent purchasers.

HELD that, against one who has such a contract unregistered, a purchaser who has a registered convey- ance must prevail.

Markby, J.—THE plaintiff in this case sued either for completion of an agreement to purchase 5 beegahs and 18 cottahs of land made with the defendant Hurish Chunder Byragee, or, in the alternative, to recover possession of that land.

It appears that the contract was made on the 31st Assin 1275, and on a deposit of 60 rupees the defendant, Hurish Chunder Byragee, promised to convey the land to the plaintiff on payment of the balance of the purchase-money on the 31st of Bhadro ensuing, with the alternative—somewhat peculiar—that, if he did not complete the agreement of executing the conveyance, that document would itself operate as a conveyance, the balance of the purchase-money being forfeited.

The form of the document sufficiently explains itself. On some day in Srabun, Hurish Chunder Byragee sold some portion of the same property to Nobin Chunder Dhobah, and actually executed a conveyance to him, which was registered.

Nobin Chunder Dhobah came forward in the present suit, and claimed to be made a defendant. We agree with the Judges in the case reported at page 196, X. Weekly Reporter, that it was not necessary to entertain the application.

The suit of the plaintiff has been dismissed on the ground that he only got at the time when the sale was made to Nobin Chunder Dhobah a mere contract to sell the proper-

ty; and Nobin Chunder Dhobah being a *bonâ fide* purchaser for valuable consideration, the plaintiff cannot recover possession of the land, and compel Hurish Chunder Byragee to execute a conveyance. All that he can do is to get damages against Hurish Chunder Byragee for breach of contract, and the question now before us is whether that proposition is correct in law.

We think that it is certainly correct to this extent, that the plaintiff has got no title of which he can avail himself as against Nobin Chunder Dhobah. The difference between a contract for sale of the property and an actual conveyance of the property is perfectly clear; and, as we understand it, the reason why in some cases the person who has only got a contract of sale is considered to have a title against the person who has the actual conveyance is this—that the transaction, though in form a contract, is, in fact, a conveyance; that that which gives the right to acquire is actually a mode of acquiring; and in the present case the document between the plaintiff and the defendant is, though in form a contract, of such a nature that he could hold under it as against subsequent purchaser.

But now, as soon as we hold that, the plaintiff falls into another difficulty, because Clause 1, Section 18 of the Registration Act, would apply; and under Section 50 of that Act, "every instrument of the kinds "mentioned in Clauses 1, 2, and 3 of Section "18 shall, if duly registered, take effect, as "regards the property comprised therein, "against every unregistered instrument re-"lating to the same property, whether such "other instrument be of the same nature of "the registered instrument or not."

It is not necessary for us to say how the present contract would have stood had the first purchaser registered his conveyance. But between a purchaser who has a registered conveyance, and one who has only a contract of sale, the former must prevail.

The appeal is dismissed with costs in favor of Nobin Chunder Dhobah.

With regard to the other point mentioned, namely, that the interest of Nobin does not extend to the whole of the 5 beegahs which the defendant promised to sell, it is not necessary for us to interfere, because that matter has been corrected by the Court below, and its decision will stand good, and is in no way affected by our order.

The 6th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G

Judges.

Enhancement of rent—Evidence—Pri case.

Case No. 2104 of 1870 under Act of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed Officiating Judge of Midnapore, d 2nd June 1870, modifying a decision Deputy Collector of that District, d 1st November 1869.

Suroop Manna (Defendant), *Appell*

versus

Bonomalee Churn Mytee and ano (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for App

Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee fo Respondents.

In a suit after notice for a kubooleut at enha said to be those prevailing in the adjacent vi similar lands held by the same class of ryots a ant, the evidence of seven occupant ryots of th bourhood, though not a majority, was held to ly sufficient to make a case which defendant to rebut.

Glover, J.—THIS was a suit for a leut at enhanced rates of rent after The plaintiff, the purchaser of a Gove khas mehâl, alleged that the defenda 14 beegahs 3 cottahs 3 pie of la which he paid rent at less rates tha paid by ryots of a similar class in the bourhood having similar advantag demanded Rupees 43-13 instead of 18 heretofore paid.

The ryot objected to every part plaintiff's case, denied that he he quantity of land stated by the ze denied the rates, and alleged that the of produce had not increased. He al objection to the plaintiff's power to e but this part of the case it is unnece notice here.

The Assistant Collector disposed case first in 1868, and again took it 1869 on remand by the Appellate The Judge held on that occasion th plaintiff had established his right to en and was entitled to a decree if he

e that the rates claimed were the rates ailing in the neighbourhood.

e Deputy Collector on this called for nce from both plaintiff and defendant, ixed the date for hearing. The plaint- mined his witnesses, but the defend- hough granted extension of time, did roduce his, and the Deputy Collector ed on the evidence that was before him the plaintiff had proved the rates de- ded by him to be the rates paid by of a similar class to the defendant g lands of a like kind with like ad- es in places adjacent. He, therefore, laintiff a decree; and so far as mouzah was concerned. the Judge, on appeal, med the Deputy Collector's order.

e defendant now appeals specially to ourt, and contends—

—That as the plaintiff failed to prove ll rates claimed by him, his suit for a pleut should have been dismissed, and

—That there was no sufficient evidence rove what was required by the law, ly, that the rate paid by the defendant elow the prevailing rate payable by me class of ryots possessing similar ages in the neighbourhood.

ere was another objection taken to the y of the notice, but this was not d by the special appellant's pleader.

e first objection is untenable, and Full Bench decision, Gholam Ma- d *versus* Asmut Ali Khan, 10 Week- porter, Full Bench, 14, does not apply. e has been no failure of proof in this on the part of the plaintiff as regards te of rent prevalent in the mouzah of , for which mouzah alone the zemin- as obtained a decree.

d with regard to the second objection, nd that, after the remand, the Deputy ctor did take evidence on the various s required by the law. On the first ion the witnesses did, no doubt, speak rally, and their evidence fell short of was required; but on the second, seven esses deposed that the rates demanded e plaintiff were those prevailing in the cent villages for similar lands held by class of ryots to which the defendant be- ed. Four witnesses from adjacent vil- , occupant ryots, swore to the rates on s of the same kind and possessing the same advantages as those held in mouzah Dooah by the defendant, and three occupant ryots of mouzah Dooah deposed to payment of the same rates for their lands.

No doubt, it might be said that these witnesses did not form the bulk of the cultivating ryots; but their evidence was legally sufficient to make a case which the defendant was bound to rebut; and although he was allowed more than one opportunity, he neglected to bring any witnesses to prove that the rates asked by the plaintiff were not the prevailing rates for ryots of the defendant's class. In the case of Sadhoo Singh and others *versus* Ramanoogra Lall, 9 Weekly Reporter 83, there was evidence on both sides, and it was held that the proof of the rate paid by the majority was insufficient. Here the defendant gave no evidence whatever. He declined even to pay his share of the expenses for the deputation of an Ameen, and he cannot now object that the witnesses examined by the plaintiff were not a majority of the occupant ryots of the neighbourhood.

We think that the plaintiff did all that under the circumstances was required of him, and that he is entitled to retain his decree.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 6th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Rent-suits—Jurisdiction—Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869.

Case No. 2239 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 9th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Doobrajpore, dated the 27th April 1870.

Kullyanessuree Dossee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Narain Kyburto (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Obhoy Churn Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter for Respondent.

A suit for arrears of rent, which had been instituted in the Moonsiff's Court before Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869 came into operation, was decided by that Court after the jurisdiction of the Revenue Courts had ceased to exist.

HELD that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction in the case.

Kemp, J.—THIS is a suit for the rent of a bowlee tenure, the rent being demanded for the years 1275 and 1276. The suit was admittedly instituted on the 24th of February 1870 or before Act VIII. of 1869 came into operation—that Act having come into operation on the 11th of April 1870. The Moonsiff, although the question of jurisdiction was raised in his Court, seems to have been of opinion that it would put the parties to unnecessary trouble if this suit had to be re-instituted in his Court; the jurisdiction of the Revenue Courts in such cases now, or at the time when he passed his decision, no longer existing.

On appeal on the question of jurisdiction, the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom held that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction to try the case. He, therefore, reversed the decision of the Moonsiff, and dismissed the original suit.

In special appeal it is said in the grounds of appeal that the Moonsiff had jurisdiction, for the reasons stated by him, to try this suit, and that the Subordinate Judge was wrong in throwing it out on the ground that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction.

We can have no doubt that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction in this case. The suit being one for rent, and being instituted before Act VIII. of 1869 came into operation, ought to have been brought in the Collector's Court; and if it had been so brought under Section 108 of Act VIII. of 1869, the Collector would have had jurisdiction to hear and determine it, and the execution of any decree or order therein passed would have been regulated by the practice and procedure which obtained before that Act was passed.

The pleader for the appellant has called our attention to a decision to be found in Volume XIV. of the Weekly Reporter, page 246. The decision in that case turned upon the question whether that was a suit for arrears of rent due on account of land, or whether it was a suit for arrears of rent on account of buildings and houses. In suit the rent was demanded for a b close to the palace of the Maharaj Burdwan. The Judges found that the was leased as a bazaar, and that the being demanded, not solely for the lan also for the buildings, it appeared t Court that the suit would not lie i Revenue Courts. There is also an ob the effect that it would not have been n sary to try the point as to whether the diction was in one Court or the othe jurisdiction being now in the Civil C but as the question had been pressed t Judges in connection with the matt costs, it became necessary to decide whe at the time the plaint was put in, it entertainable in the Civil Court or not; the Judges found that it was entertainab the Civil Court; but the decision itse not turn on that point alone, and the it is not a decision in any way binding this Court.

We agree with the Subordinate Judge, dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 8th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwark Mitter, *Judges.*

Butwarra—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 1761 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passe the Officiating Additional Judge of C tagong, dated the 31st May 1870, a ing a decision of the Subordinate J of that District, dated the 31st 1869.

Doorga Kripa Roy (Plaintiff), *Appellan*

versus

Mohesh Chunder Roy (Defendant), *Respondent.*

The Advocate-General and *Mr. R. E. Twidale* for Appellant.

Mr. Montriou and *Baboo Sreenath Dess* for Respondent.

re the real object is to obtain a division of the of an estate paying revenue to Government, the not maintainable in a Civil Court.

ter, J.— We do not think it necessary press any opinion upon the various s taken in this petition of special ap- It is admitted that the real object of it is to obtain a division of the lands estate paying revenue to Government. e power of making such a division d exclusively in the Revenue Author- and we must, therefore, dismiss this one not maintainable in the Civil

application is rejected with costs.

The 8th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

ppeal—False statement—Procedure.

e No. 1884 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

al *Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Additional Judge of Tir- t, dated the 27th May 1870, affirming decision of the Assistant Collector of District, dated the 16th October 9.*

nd Chowdhry (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Abdool Luteef (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

oo Anund Gopal Paleet for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondent.

ge is bound to go into all the matters raised be- n in an appeal, even if the appellant appears to de a false statement, or if he sought to palm off ous document upon the Appellate Court.

ckson, J.—There must be a new trial s appeal.

e defendant appealed against an order cing his rent, and that appeal, as stated e Judge, partly proceeded upon the tion, which the Judge considers to have false, that the Assistant Collector had perly refused to receive certain papers. Judge having ascertained, both from the ment of the Assistant Collector himself and also from other circumstances, that this allegation was untrue, he thereupon declines to go into the other matters raised in the appeal, thinking that the allegations on those points would necessarily be valueless, and therefore dismisses the appeal.

This cannot be supported. The Judge is bound to go into all the matters raised in the appeal, and to decide whether the enhancement ordered was based upon legal ground or not. It is not because the appellant appeared to have made a false statement, or even because he sought to palm off a spurious document upon the Appellate Court, that his suit is to be dismissed. If he has brought himself within any of the provisions of the Penal Code, or any other law which applies to his case, and subjects him to criminal proceedings, he may be so dealt with, but the case must be decided on the merits. The case will have to be remanded for trial by the Court below, but under the circumstances we think the special appellant ought not to get the costs of this appeal.

The 8th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Rent—Co-sharer's right of suit—Section 10, Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862—Collector's powers.

Case No. 1894 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 7th June 1870; affirming a decision of the Assistant Collector of Tajpore, dated the 26th March 1870.

Sree Misser and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Mr. W. S. Crowdy (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellants.

The Advocate-General for Respondent.

A suit for rent is not maintainable at the instance of one or more of several co-sharers, unless the latter have been accustomed to collect their rents separately.

A Collector, proceeding under Section 10, Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862, to measure land in respect of which rent has not hitherto been paid, is not entitled to assess or ascertain the rents which ought to be paid, or which are fair and reasonable.

Jackson, J.—THIS is a suit for arrears of rent on the part of a ticcadar, who holds in ticca a certain fractional share of an estate, the defendant being one of the other co-sharers, and also occupying the land in respect of which rent is claimed.

The defendant's allegation was that the land in question was his *ziraat*, which he was entitled to hold without payment of rent by the custom of the mehal, as other portions of land were in like manner held by the other co-sharers. He also denied the right of the plaintiff to maintain the suit without the consent of the other co-sharers, and he denied the correctness of the rent claimed, and also the plaintiff's share.

The appeal was heard in the first place before Mr. Pearson, Judge of Tirhoot, who overruled certain objections which had been allowed by the Assistant Collector, and remitted the case to that officer for trial upon the merits. Thereupon the Assistant Collector tried the case, and came to a decision which was again appealed to the Court of the Zillah Judge, which office was then held by Mr. S. C. Bayley. That gentleman considered himself precluded from going into the points determined by his predecessor, and upheld the decision of the Assistant Collector on the merits.

The case now comes before us in special appeal. The points which arise appear to be four. In the first place, is the suit maintainable by the plaintiff? No doubt, generally speaking, the rule which has been laid down in this Court is, that a suit for rent is not maintainable at the instance of one or more of several co-sharers, unless the course of dealings between the parties has been such that the several co-sharers have been accustomed to collect their rents separately. In this case, therefore, it will be necessary that this point should be determined, namely, whether, according to the custom of that estate, the several co-sharers have been accustomed to collect their rents separately. If this point be found in the affirmative, the plaintiff will be entitled to maintain the present suit; if not, the plaintiff will be out of Court.

Although the facts are not very clear, yet it may possibly turn out that the plaintiffs and defendants are the only existing co-sharers or persons entitled to divide the rent between them. If that be so, I think it manifest from the necessity of the case that the plaintiff must be entitled to maintain the suit; because otherwise, if the plaintiff c not hope to obtain the consent of his sharer, he would be debarred from obta any relief. Therefore, if it should so a the plaintiff's suit would necessarily be tainable.

The second point is whether the de ant, who, by his own admission, land, within the estate of which the p iff is entitled to a part of the rent entitled to hold such land without the ment of rent. On this point it will b cessary for defendant to show that the is *ziraat*, and as such exempt from payment of rent to the co-sharers.

The third point is what is the a of rent payable. On this part of the there seems to have been some misco tion. The Collector appears to hav ceeded under Section 10, Act VI. of of the Bengal Council Acts, and to measured the land, and to have furthe ceeded to ascertain the rent payable spect of it. It seems to be admitte in this case the defendant has not to paid rent in respect of the land is the subject of dispute. Now, Sect of the Act cited enables the Collect proceed to ascertain and determine a cord the rates of rent payable in resp such lands; and by a decision of a D Bench of this Court to be found Weekly Reporter, page 371, these have been construed to mean the which are accustomed to be paid, or payment of which there has been an ment or contract; and that, under these the Collector is not entitled to as ascertain the rents which ought to be or which are fair and reasonable r rent. Therefore, if, as it seems, no has been previously paid in respect of lands, the finding of the Collector by he assessed rent upon it would be effect, and would not be conclusive the defendant; but the plaintiff would to show by evidence in this case wh proper rent payable was, supposing rent was payable at all.

The fourth point is what is the sh the rent, supposing the rent to be tained, to which the plaintiff would b titled. In the determination of this the plaintiff would have to give evide the share which he held in ticca, and the Court upon that point; and it wou open to the defendant, on the other han

t that evidence, and to show what his share was; and then upon evidence ad-d on either side, it would be for the t to decide.

e think, therefore, that the case must ck to the Lower Appellate Court, in that these points respectively may be and determined.

The 8th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

n 17, Act VIII., 1859—Appeal—Technical objection.

Case No. 2306 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, d the 17th August 1870, affirming a sion of the Moonsiff of Rampore l, dated the 21st January 1870.

unoo Dossee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

an Chunder Banerjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

oo Obeenash Chunder Banerjee for Appellant.

s Nil Madhub Sein and *Motee Lall Mookerjee* for Respondent.

e a Lower Appellate Court threw out a case on nd that the plaint had not been filed by a re-ageat within the meaning of Section 17, Act VIII. though that point had been disposed of by the first instance:

that the case should not have been thrown out a technical objection not affecting the merits of e.

ver, J.—The Subordinate Judge, on ross-appeal of the defendant, threw out laintiff's claim on the ground that the had not been filed by any recognized on the terms of Section 17 of the Code il Procedure. The plaintiff appeals to Court specially on this point, and a cross-l has been filed by the defendant on the ground that, under any circumstances, the decision arrived at by the Court of first instance must have been upheld by the Court on appeal, inasmuch as the suit was dismissed, because the plaintiff had neglected to put in any evidence in support of her claim.

With regard to the first objection, we think that the Judge was right in saying that the plaint had not been properly filed under Section 17. The plaintiff resides within the jurisdiction of the Court, and the party who put in the plaint on her behalf was not a person holding a general power of attorney from her. Under the Section above quoted, therefore, it appears that this person had no authority to file the plaint on behalf of the plaintiff, and so far the Subordinate Judge was right; but this being purely a technical objection not affecting in any way the merits of the case or the jurisdiction of the Court, we think that the Subordinate Judge ought not to have thrown out the plaintiff's case on such objection. The point had been considered and disposed of by the Moonsiff, and the Court of appeal should have confined itself to deciding the merits of the case as between the parties, and not have disposed of the case simply on a ground purely technical.

But it is urged that, supposing the Subordinate Judge to be wrong on this point, there is no evidence in the case on which he could have come to a decision in favor of the plaintiff. No doubt, the Moonsiff dismissed the plaintiff's case, because she had failed to produce her witnesses on the day fixed; but we find, on turning to the petition of appeal to the Judge, that she gave various reasons for not producing witnesses. She alleged that the onus was not on her, but on the defendant; that in any case there was an admission by the defendant of a considerable part of the claim made by her, for which she was entitled to a decree; and also that the non-production of the witnesses was not her fault; that she had produced them, but that they were allowed to go away on the understanding that a compromise was about to be effected between the parties. Whether these reasons were good or bad, it is impossible for us to say at this stage of the case; but still it is possible that she might have persuaded the Judge, if the appeal had been argued, to have remanded the case either for examination of her witnesses, or, at all events, for a decision on that part of the case with regard to which the defendant had made an admission in her favor.

We think, therefore, the special appellant has, under these circumstances, a right to have the case remanded, in order that the Judge may decide it on the merits between the parties.

We remand it accordingly. Costs to follow the result.

The 8th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Lien on attached property—Jurisdiction—Section 15, Charter Act.

In the matter of

Munohur Paul, *Petitioner,*

versus

J. P. Wise, *Opposite Party.*

Mr. J. W. B. Money and *Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter, Luleet Chunder Sein,* and *Okhil Chunder Sein* for Petitioner.

The Advocate-General, Mr. C. Gregory, and *Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss* for Opposite Party.

The fact of A obtaining a declaration of his lien upon certain property for an amount of debt is no bar to B's attaching and selling that property, but the purchaser will be bound by that lien.

Where a Moonsiff refuses to attach property in execution which he is bound to attach, he may be compelled to do so by the High Court in the exercise of its powers of supervision.

Jackson, J.—We both agree that we ought to set aside the order of the Moonsiff of Lechragunge, dated the 2nd August 1870, as having been passed without jurisdiction. The rule in this case was granted by Mr. Justice Kemp and Mr. Justice Ainslie; and it appears, therefore, that they also were of opinion that there was a sufficient case made out for an interference by this Court.

The case is this. One Munohur Paul is at present a decree-holder against one Gureeb Hossein Chowdhry. In execution of his decree, he sought in the Moonsiff's Court to attach certain property, which he states belongs to, and is in the possession of, Gureeb Hossein Chowdhry. Objections to the attachment have been raised by Mr. Wise, holds a decree against the estate of Mah Jokee Chowdhry, the father of G Hossein Chowdhry, in which it has declared that the property which Mu Paul is suing to attach is liable to be for certain debts due to Mr. Wise. O petition of objection being filed, the siff has ruled that, as Mr. Wise has ob a decree from the High Court to se property for the realization of his debt as his claim is against the deceased he has a superior claim to that of Mu Paul, which is against the son. He, fore, declines to carry out the attachme

The objection to this Court is th Moonsiff has altogether refused to e the jurisdiction which is vested in h law, and which he is bound to exerc order to enable the present decree-ho obtain the benefit of his decree; and jurisdiction is not exercised, the holder will be put to the unnecessary and expense of bringing another civil

It is contended, on the other hand, th Moonsiff was right in rejecting Mu Paul's application to attach on the gr stated by him; and whether he was r he was wrong, this Court has no po interfere. It is said that the Moonsiff, jecting the application, has possibly act der some feeling of deference to the of the Court. All that can be said on that, if he puts such a mistaken meaning the orders of this Court, it is right th Court should tell him that those have no such legal effect as he att to put upon them. There is as yet no to show that Mr. Wise will enforce his cree against these properties. If Mr. has obtained his decree, he can carry o decree, and nothing that Munohur Pau do can in any way injure Mr. Wise's under his decree. It does not follow because Mr. Wise has obtained a declar of his lien upon these properties for a ce amount of debt, nobody else has pow attach or sell those properties. The purch under such circumstances, will be b by the lien, and he will also be at libe pay off Mr. Wise's lien. There is not however, to show that Mr. Wise has any lien upon the property. The Moo has not found that Mr. Wise holds any upon it. It would seem as if Mr. Wise not got so strong a case even as we h put.

Then it is said that there was also an jection taken that the decree which Muno

d

l held was a decree obtained by fraud collusion, and the Moonsiff intended to de that point. It is very certain that Moonsiff has not decided that point.

hen lastly comes the question whether Court has any authority to interfere in case. In support of this view of the several decisions of this Court have been ed to us, and among them the decision e found in 7 Weekly Reporter, page seems to me exactly in point. In that the Deputy Collector refused to exer- the jurisdiction which he had under the and referred the parties to another civil This Court set aside that order, and red the Deputy Collector to exercise his diction. In this case also it is clear the Moonsiff had jurisdiction to attach, was bound under the law to attach, the erty; and unless some clear, sufficient, legal objection is taken to the sale of property, he is even bound to proceed to ale of it. He has, in fact, refused to out the decree; he has refused to h on a ground which is utterly unwar- d by any principle of law. He has, in refused to exercise jurisdiction which he ound under the law to exercise. We , therefore, we ought to set aside order of the Moonsiff, dated the 2nd ust 1870, and direct him to carry out aw.

e petitioner will have his costs of this on, which is estimated at thirty-two es.

ookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Pre-emption—Waiver of right.

Case No. 1452 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by e Subordinate Judge of Sylhet, dated 26th April 1870, affirming a decision the Moonsiff of Lushkerpore, dated 31st January 1870.

Brojo Kishore Surmah (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Kirtee Chunder Surmah and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

A party is not entitled, under the Mahomedan Law, to exercise the right of pre-emption after relinquishing that right at the time of sale and purchase.

Mookerjee, J.—THE plaintiff in this case is the appellant. His suit was to enforce a right of pre-emption in regard to the disputed land, by setting aside a deed of sale executed by the vendor defendant in favor of the purchaser.

The vendor defendant denied that the plaintiff had ever performed any of the preliminaries required to be observed by a shufee under the Mahomedan Law; that at the time of sale he, the vendor, gave the plaintiff the refusal of the purchase; but the plaintiff not only refused the offer, but gave him permission to sell the property to whomsoever he liked; that he then sold the land to the purchaser defendant.

The purchaser defendant states that it was only when the plaintiff refused to purchase that he purchased the same, relying on the assurance that plaintiff will not assert any claim to pre-emption; that he purchased in good faith; and that the pre-emptor, after having refused the offer, cannot now turn round and say that "I would purchase." It is contended also that he is estopped from asserting his claims having waived the same.

The Court of first instance was of opinion that the tullub-i-mowasibat has not been performed by the plaintiff, though there is some evidence to the other tullub, namely, that of ishtehasbad.

The Court further held that, from the evidence adduced by the defendants, as well as from the testimony of one of plaintiff's own witnesses, it is clear that the vendor defendant had asked the plaintiff to purchase the land, but that he refused to do so; and that consequently the vendor was quite competent to sell, and the purchaser defendant to purchase the same.

The first Court, therefore, dismissed the claim with costs.

This decision has been upheld on appeal by the Subordinate Judge, who says that "I "do not agree with the Moonsiff, but I hold "that the plaintiff has in a manner establish- "ed the fact of his having performed the "preliminaries of ishtehasbad and tullub-i- "mowasibat." He then proceeds to give

his opinion as to the effect in law of the refusal of the plaintiff to purchase the land when offered to him for sale. He agrees with the Court of first instance in holding that the plaintiff is, under this circumstance, precluded from asserting his claim, which is a very weak one even under the law of Mahomed. The Subordinate Judge then says that, in this view of the case, it is unnecessary for him to decide whether the Court below was right or not in not examining Raj Kishen, a witness in the cause; and lastly, that officer concludes his judgment by holding that "it was only on account of the fault of the plaintiff that he (the witness) was not examined." He, therefore, dismissed the appeal of the plaintiff with costs.

The plaintiff then preferred this special appeal to us, complaining that the Courts below were in error in holding that a claim founded on a right of pre-emption is any way affected by a waiver of the right to purchase previous to the sale of the land. He contends that, as the right of shuffa only accrues after the sale, the surrender of that right before a sale has taken place is not valid under Mahomedan Law. In support of this contention, Baboo Bama Churn cites Hedayah, Volume III., page 568, Baillie's Mahomedan Law, page 500, Macnaghten's Mahomedan Law, page 196, and a precedent from the Select Reports, Volume V., page 300.

On referring to the authorities, however, we find that the Hedayah in page 568, Volume III., merely lays down that "the "privilege of shuffa is established after the "sale, for it cannot take place until it be "manifest that the proprietor is no longer "inclined to keep his house, and this is "manifested by the sale of it." This merely shows when the cause of action arises in a claim for pre-emption, and when the right to claim shuffa accrues, but does not support the contention raised before us that a pre-emptor is free to assert his claim of shuffa after he has in distinct terms waived his right to do so either immediately before the sale or at the time of it.

In Baillie's Digest of Mahomedan Law, page 500, occurs this passage: "The sur-"render of a right of pre-emption before a "sale has taken place is not valid." "This, however, is supported by no authority from the Mahomedan Law-books; and I would, therefore, hesitate to act upon this dictum. In the same paragraph, however, is found the following passages: "When the pre-em "has said, 'I have surrendered the "of pre-emption in this mansion,' "surrender is valid;" and also "if he sh "say to the seller, 'I have surrendered "right of pre-emption in this mansio "thee,' the mansion being still in the "er's possession, the surrender wou "valid." These passages show that a of shuffa can be surrendered by the emptor; and if the surrender is ma prevents the pre-emptor afterwards asserting his claim to shuffa. The f arrived at by the Courts below in this is to the effect that the seller, at the ti sale, offered the land to the plaintiff for chase; that the plaintiff thereupon, not refused the offer, but told the seller to his share to whomsoever he liked, an purchaser, relying on this surrender plaintiff's right of purchase under the pre-emption, made the purchase fro seller. Under these circumstances, pears to me to be monstrous to contend after such a complete surrender of the pl iff's right, he should be allowed by Court of justice to assert his claim stood by when the defendant was se the property to the purchaser, and in and unequivocal terms permitted him vendor, to sell, and the purchaser to No Court of justice in the world w allow, or should permit the plaintiff to that "though I had no intention to purc when you, the defendant, purchased land, and therefore refused the offer vendor, and gave him permission to s you, yet that I have subsequently cha my mind, and will now have the satisfa to see that your purchase is invalid and all the costs incurred by you for purchase of stamp, &c., are so much to you." The plaintiff would be estoppe law from asserting a claim of this n after having stood by and seen the ve make the purchase without giving him warning that he, the plaintiff, has the f ferential claim to purchase, or that he tends to purchase, and that the defend would purchase at his own risk. Now, stead of warning the purchaser or asser his intention to purchase, he gives the v dor to understand that he has no object whatever to the sale. This is a comp renunciation and surrender of plaint right of pre-emption, and I would hold th after this renunciation, he should not permitted to claim the right to purchas It would require very clear and distin

rity in the Mahomedan Law to support a view of it as is contended for by the llant's vakeel, which, I have no hesita- in holding, is against all principles of e, against equity, and against good ience.

e case in Macnaghten is not in point. question put to the Law Officer was y, "When the shuffee or person who a right to pre-emption declines to chase the land at the price demanded the proprietor, and states that he will pay for it more than a certain sum," shuffee at liberty to bring forward a for pre-emption when the proprietor ld the land to a third person on receiv- is own price ?

the reply given to that question, the Officer states that the refusal by the e to pay the amount which had been by the purchaser amounts to a re- ation of the right of pre-emption. reply, however, went on to say, and I improperly, because unasked, that laim of the shuffee to a right of pre- ion cannot be adduced until after the had been actually sold, and that a l to purchase before the sale cannot e to defeat his (the shuffee's) claim of mption subsequently preferred. There o in this reply no authority cited to rt such a view of the law. The case not in point with the present, because is case the pre-emptor, at the time of repudiated all intention to become the aser, and induced the purchaser to buy. is no question that the same price for the land was sold to the vendee was he amount for which the land was d for sale to him.

e case at page 300 of the 5th Volume e Select Reports does not decide question. There is only an expres- of opinion by the Law Officer, but Sudder Court decided the case on a different point. This is, I apprehend, thority at all. In the opinion given e Mufti, I find also that he is unable ote from any Mahomedan Law-book passage or text to support his opinion.

decision of a Division Bench to be d in what is called the Gap Number of Weekly Reporter for 1864, page 311, ngthens me in the view I have taken of law. The opinion of the Judges who that case was approved of by another Division Bench, and that decision is in page 480, Volume XI. of the Weekly Reporter.

In this case, it is clear that the plaintiff not only refused to purchase the property when offered to him for sale, but actually accorded his permission to the vendor to sell the same to a third party, the purchaser, and that the purchaser, relying on that renunciation by the plaintiff, went to the expense of purchasing stamp, &c., for the purchase of the property. I hold, therefore, that the suit of the plaintiff was rightly dismissed by the Courts below. Our Courts are to be guided by the principles of justice, equity, and good conscience. The Mahomedan Law is only the law of this country so far as the Legislature has adopted it as the law of British India, and so far as we see clear authorities in it on a particular point. In all cases, therefore, where there is no clear and positive authority in the Mahomedan Law, I think it is our duty to follow the dictates of justice and good conscience. Now, it cannot be contended for a moment that it is equitable or just that a plaintiff, who refused to purchase a property when offered to him for sale, who has likewise induced the purchaser to buy on reliance of his clear renunciation of his right to purchase, should be allowed to get rid of his renunciation and to set aside the sale merely for the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing the whole thing rendered null and void, and the purchaser endamaged in costs.

If this be allowed, the consequence would be that no co-parcener of a property would be able to sell his share at a just and reasonable price, but must be compelled to sell to his co-sharer at his price, however low and unreasonable. He will be completely at his mercy, and though undoubtedly entitled to sell his share will never practically be able to sell it at its proper value. If we allow the principle contended for by the appellant, we will assuredly act against equity and justice, which is the law we are bound to administer, and assist the plaintiff in the perpetration of a gross fraud. I cannot imagine what greater precaution could possibly be taken by a co-parcener desirous of selling his property than what was taken by the vendor defendant in this case. He goes to the person who has a preferential right to purchase, namely, the plaintiff, and offers his share for sale. This offer is refused, not on the score of the price offered being excessive, but plaintiff's unwillingness to avail him-

self of the right given to him by the Mahomedan Law; the vendor is further permitted to sell to any party he liked. He goes to the vendee, and the vendee, finding that the shuffee has declined the purchase, accepts the offer, and goes to considerable expense in perfecting his purchase. We are now asked to set aside this sale, to compel the purchaser to forego his purchase, and to suffer the loss of his money incurred in getting the bill of sale prepared and executed. I consider the Courts below were right in declining to give such an unjust and inequitable decree to the plaintiff. I would, therefore, uphold the order passed by the Courts below, and dismiss this appeal without costs, no one appearing for respondent.

Jackson, J.—I am of opinion that, even under the Mahomedan Law, the plaintiff is not entitled to exercise the rights of pre-emption as he has already relinquished those rights at the time of purchase and sale. I concur, therefore, with my learned colleague in dismissing this appeal without costs.

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Embankments—Damages—Cause of action.

Case No. 1956 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated the 30th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Nowabad, dated the 24th December 1869.

Seeta Ram (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Shaikh Kummeer Ali and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellant.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Kalee Kishen Sein* for Respondents.

In a suit for damages for the demolition of a *singha* or embankment intended to keep in surface water, if the embankment was situated on the defendant's land, such demolition could only be a cause of action, where it not only infringed a definite right, but caused actual damage.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiffs in this suit are the owners of mouzah Madhorampore, and they sued the defendants, who are owners of mouzah Dadpore, alleging the defendants wrongfully destroyed a *gha* or embankment intended to kee surface water, standing partly on plai land and partly in the lands of mo Suleempore. They further alleged tha defendants had gone on to erect a new wholly upon the plaintiffs' land, wh the flow of water had been further affe and the plaintiffs, consequently, fu endamaged; and they prayed the Co cause the restoration of the *singha* an demolition of the *ayle.*

The plaintiffs' allegation referri mouzah Suleempore appears to have ha effect of provoking the proprietors of village to intervene in the suit, and their own application, they appear to been made defendants.

The Moonsiff's inquiry, however, the spot in the presence of both p established, in his opinion, the fact th whole of the *singha* was situated on plaintiffs' land of mouzah Madhoram while the *ayle,* on the other hand, situated on the defendants' lands of mo Dadpore. He, therefore, considered the defendants had doubly infringed plaintiff's right, and he gave a decree ag them; and the decree was also given ag the defendants who are the owner mouzah Suleempore, and who had be parties to the suit at their own request.

On appeal, the Subordinate Judge that it was immaterial whether the s was situated on the plaintiff's land or where, so long as it appeared that the s was of ancient date; and he seemed to that the mere circumstance of antiquity the plaintiff a claim to maintain the s the *singha* were destroyed by the defen On this part of the case, therefore affirmed the decree of the Moonsiff wi inquiring what the plaintiffs' precise in respect of that *singha* was; and the *ayle* also affirming the Moon finding on that part of the case, he dec that the plaintiff would be entitled to an opening made through the *ahur* necessary.

Against this decision all the defend have appealed—the Suleempore defend as well as the others.

On this part of the case it seems suffici I think, to say that the making the Sule

e proprietors parties to the suit was gether unnecessary and injudicious, and y add improper. They were not persons ving an interest in the subject-matter d liable to be affected by the result of suit." Their application, therefore, to ade parties ought to have been refused; he proper order to be made in respect em is that they should be expunged the record as defendants, they being o pay their own costs of the proceed-

regard to the original defendants, it s to me that the decision of the Subor- e Judge cannot stand. The plaintiff's to have the *singha* established or to ges would depend very materially upon uestion as to whether it was situated the plaintiff's land or no. If the was situated upon the plaintiff's the act done by the defendant would mple trespass, and would be unjusti- ; but if it was situated upon the de- nts' own land, that which the defendants done would amount to a cause of action if the plaintiff had a definite right to maintenance of the *singha;* and it have to be shown that the destruction was not only an infringement of that but had also caused actual damage to aintiff. It is clear, therefore, that the would have to go back to the Subordi- Judge in order that he should determine estion of situation in the first instance.

ly, as to the *ayle*, the specific order the Subordinate Judge has made is erroneous, because it is not in accord- with the plaintiff's own case. The iff's case was, that the defendants had upon their land and erected this *ayle*, ad thereby damaged them; whereas it that the *ayle* was not erected on the iff's land at all, but upon that of the dant. That part of the plaintiff's case, ore, taken separately, must fail; but if ould appear that the defendants have operly destroyed the *singha*, which the iff had an interest in keeping up, then, urse, the question of the further erec- of the *ayle* as bearing upon the damage e plaintiff must be taken into consider- n.

he case, therefore, must go back to the er Appellate Court in order that it uld determine, 1st, what the plaintiffs' in respect of the *singha* is, *namely*, her it stands upon the plaintiffs' land, and is therefore their property, or whether it stands upon the defendants' property, but the plaintiffs have an interest and right which entitled them to have it maintained; 2nd, if necessary, whether the erection of an *ayle* by defendants on their own land has contributed, with the destruction of the *singha*, to the damage of the plaintiffs.

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Claim under a Will—Inheritance.

Case No. 1957 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 22nd July 1870, reversing a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 11th December 1869.

Moulvie Ahmedoollah (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Gour Huree Biswas (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Okhil Chunder Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Respondent.

An heir does not lose his rights as such, because of his inability to prove a Will under which he claimed a larger share in a former litigation in which no question of inheritance was raised.

Jackson, J.—We think that the appeal should be dismissed. The only ground taken is that, as the defendant, on a former occasion, set up the rights of his vendor Badul Bibee under a Will, therefore he is now debarred from setting up her rights under inheritance. It is said that he was bound on that occasion to set up all his claims, and he, having failed to do so, cannot now set up a right as heir.

It seems, as far as we can see from the former litigation, that there was no question as to Badul Bibee's right by inheritance, and even now there is no dispute upon this point. The only question was whether she was entitled to a larger share in the deceased's property under the Will. It would be monstrous to hold, because a person can-

not prove a Will which gives him a larger share of the property than he would be entitled to as an heir, that he therefore lost all his rights as an heir to the smaller share in the property. The Privy Council decision reported in 10 Weekly Reporter, page 1, is alluded to. But in that case the claimant first put forward a claim to a smaller share as an heir, and then in a subsequent litigation tried to put forward a Will. He was at once met with the fact that, if he had a Will, he should have set it up at once, and he was not allowed to set up a Will, he having said nothing about it on the former occasion. The decision of the Lower Court seems to us to be quite correct, and we dismiss the appeal with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur. The Privy Council case has no application whatever to this.

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Set-off—Res judicata—Estoppel—Section 2, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 1977 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Chittagong, dated the 29th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 2nd August 1869.

Abdoollah Khan (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Sreekunto Pershad Hajrah (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. C. Gregory and *Baboo Debendro Narain Bose* for Appellant.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Okhil Chunder Sein* for Respondent.

The plea of set-off is one form of bringing a suit, the defendant becoming in regard thereto a plaintiff; and he cannot therefore be allowed to set up a claim for which a suit had been previously brought by him and dismissed.

Jackson, J.—We are satisfied that the decision of the Judge is correct. The defendant, in answer to the suit for the price of an elephant which the plaintiff preferred against him, attempted to establish a pl set-off. The claim which he made in plea of set-off appears to be one upon w he had already preferred a suit, which had been tried up to the Appellate C and even up to this Court in special ap and had been dismissed. The Judge, fin this, held that that dismissal was a conc judgment against the defendant, and th was not entitled to a set-off, and disall the plea.

Before this Court it is urged that th cision might have been taken as evid but it did not debar the defendant going into further evidence to prove th was entitled to the set-off he claimed. think that the former decision on the as it was preferred is conclusive again defendant. The plea of set-off is, in fac form of bringing a suit, and the defend regards that plea, becomes, in fact, the iff, and the real plaintiff is allow opportunity to answer to the plea set defence. To allow the same person fendant to set up again exactly the claim for which he had already brou suit, and which suit had been dism would be, in fact, acting in contravent Section 2, Act VIII. of 1859. The was quite right in disallowing the defend attempt to re-open the former claim, an dismiss the appeal with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur. The dec in the case brought by the appellant is clusive evidence on the point. The fact cannot be pleaded as a set-off. contention is quite unfounded.

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Gl *Judges.*

Sureties—Liability.

Case No. 2143 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Hooghly, dated the 27th 1870, reversing a decision of the Su Subordinate Judge of that District, the 31st January 1870.

Puree Soonduree Dabee (Plaintiff), *Appell*

versus

Chunder Shekhur Ghossal and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

aboos Anund Chunder Ghossal and *Goopeenath Mookerjee* for Appellant.

oos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Respondents.

re a bond was taken by a creditor from a prin-ebtor without the knowledge or consent of the s, fixing certain periods for the payment of the named in the bond :

ld that the sureties were entitled to be discharged all liability.

mp, J.—THE only point taken in this is, that the Judge was wrong in holding he securities were discharged from all ties to the plaintiff. The Judge, in rt of the decision, has quoted a deci-to be found in Volume I., Weekly ter, page 81. The Judge found that ureties had no knowledge of the bond rar, for the ikrar is in the nature of nd taken by the plaintiff from the ipals, that is to say, the gomashtas; this bond or ikrar was taken without knowledge or consent of the sureties, fixing certain periods for the payment e sums named in the bond without the ledge of the said sureties. We think the Judge was quite right in applying ecision to be found in Volume I. to this The liabilities of the parties were ged by this ikrar, and the sureties, in pinion, were rightly discharged. There be no doubt that by the ikrar, which xecuted on an adjustment of accounts, which states that a certain sum, after ctions, was found to be due by the cipals, the gomashtas, they accepted liability, stating that they could not pay sum at present, and they took time up e month of Falgoon of the year in h the ikrar was executed; and this g been done without the consent or ledge of the sureties, and their liabi-being thereby changed, they are enti-to be discharged from all liability, and mere recital in this ikrar that the sure-were still bound cannot in any way t or bind them.

he second ground taken in appeal is that Judge has dismissed the whole case of plaintiff, even as against the principals, have been found liable by the first rt, and who have not appealed. Nobody pears for them in this Court; and as they ve not appealed to the Judge against the decree of the first Court, that decree, as against them, must stand, and the decision of the Lower Appellate Court will be modified to that extent. Costs in proportion.

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Default by defendant—Procedure—Section 170, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 2275 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of West Burdwan, dated the 5th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Burjorah, dated the 23rd April 1870.

Thakoor Lall Misser (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Brohmo Moyee Dabee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Appellant.

No one for Respondent.

A plaintiff, who gives no evidence in support of his claim, is not entitled to a decree merely on the default of the defendant to give evidence.

Where a defendant contumaciously refuses to appear in answer to a summons, the Court ought to apply the provisions of Section 170, Civil Procedure Code.

Kemp, J.—THIS is a suit instituted for the purpose of declaring that a certain mortgage-bond and kubooleut were forgeries. It appears that the defendant No. 1 set up a mortgage from the husband of the plaintiff. Under that mortgage, he sued the defendant No. 2 for arrears of rent. In that suit

the plaintiff intervened, and urged that the mortgage and the kubooleut of the defendant No. 2 were forgeries. The suit, however, of the defendant No. 1 for rent was decreed after incidentally going into the question of the genuineness or otherwise of the bond. In the present suit both Courts have decreed the plaintiff's case, in as far as she seeks to set aside the bond as a forgery; and her suit to have the kubooleut declared spurious was dismissed, inasmuch as a competent Court had already pronounced judgment on that part of the case.

In appeal there is one ground taken, which, we think, has some force, that is, the second ground, that the onus being primarily on the plaintiff, she could not obtain a decree simply upon the failure of the defendant to appear without producing any evidence in support of her claim. Now, in this case, it appears clear that the defendant, although cited by the plaintiff and summoned by the Court, refused to attend. The first Court distinctly states that the defendant was in contempt; that his refusal to attend was contumacious; and therefore the first Court ought, we think, and certainly might have applied the provisions of Section 170 of the Code of Civil Procedure to the case. It appears, however, that the first Court did not do so. The Moonsiff, in his judgment, says that, inasmuch as the defendant, although summoned by the plaintiff as a witness to disprove the bond, has failed to attend in disregard of the Court's order, therefore the decision on the said bond must be against him. A case has been referred to in the course of the argument to be found in Volume XII. of the Weekly Reporter,* in which it is held that, where a plaintiff has not given any evidence whatever in support of his case, he is not entitled to a decree merely on the default of the defendant to give evidence. That case seems to us to apply to the present case. The plaintiff gave no evidence whatever, although, as suggested in the course of the argument, it was in her power to prove her possession, or to prove that the signature on the mortgage-bond was not the signature of her husband, or in some other way to prove her allegation. We, therefore, remand the case. The first Court will give the plaintiff an opportunity of proving her case, and, after doing so, pass a fresh decision. Costs to follow the result.

* Page 242.

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Gl
Judges.

Decree in rent-suit—Cause of action.

Case No. 2280 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, the 21st July 1870, affirming a de of the 1st Moonsiff of that District, the 21st May 1869.

Bissumbhur Panjah (Defendant), *App*

versus

Modhoo Soodun Dey and others (Plaint
Respondents.

Baboo Luckhee Churn Bose for Appell

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondents.

In a suit to establish proprietary title, the defendant's having obtained a decree under Act 1859, on the ground that he was proprietor, and only a ryot, was held to give the latter a distinct of action to show that he was the real proprietor.

Gloner, J.—THERE are no grounds this special appeal. Both the Courts have found as a fact that the plaintiff p the title on which he came into Court, that the defendant has not proved mowrussee right which, he says, he got the parties from whom the plaintiff chased the proprietary right. One co tion put forward in special appeal is the plaintiff has no cause of action. seems to us that, as the defendant g decree in a suit under Act X. of 1859 the ground that he was the proprieto these lands, and the plaintiff only a ryot, gave the plaintiff a most distinct cause action, and, in fact, forced him into C to show where the real proprietorship in estate was.

The special appeal is dismissed w costs.

d

The 9th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

tenancy—Partition—Section 27, Act X. of 1859.

No. 2285 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

cial Appeal from a decision passed by e Judge of Hooghly, dated the 15th July 70, affirming a decision of the Deputy llector of Jehanabad, dated the 27th ril 1870.

Nubo Kishen Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

eeram Roy and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

aboo Romanath Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Molee Lall Mookerjee for Respondents.

ere a zemindar himself put up a tenure for sale arate lots, and took rents from two of the purchas- parately, it was held that no *written* consent was ary in order to his being bound to recognize the ion.

ver, *J.*—THIS was a suit for arrears nt jointly against a number of the ff's tenants. The plaintiff brought a o resume the tenure of Huree Ram al and others, and got a decree and ards took kubooleuts from the tenants. he costs of this suit he attached and ht to sale the tenure of these parties, by his directions it was advertised old in separate lots, he himself becom- e purchaser of some of them. He nes for the rent of the entire tenure the parties who purchased the separate t auction. The defendants urge that are, according to the terms of the law, asers of separate lots, and not liable y more than their separate shares of and the Courts below found in their

special appeal, it is contended that, un- he terms of Section 27, Act X. of 1859, emindar was not bound to recognize any tion of the tenure which had been regis- d in his office, and that in any case there no consent on his part in writing to any separation. No doubt, there is no consent in *writing* on the part of the zemindar, but the inference that he did consent to the partition is of the strongest kind. It was by his own deliberate act that the tenure was put up for sale in separate lots, and it is not denied that he has since the sale taken rent from two of the purchasers of these lots separately. The object of the Regulation was the protection of the zemindar from the division of any part of his property without his knowledge, but in this case it is clear that he knew of the division all along, and was, in fact, himself the cause of the property having been so divided.

We see no grounds to interfere, and dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 10th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson, *Judge.*

Appeals to Privy Council—Rule nisi—Limitation.

In the Matter of

Rajah Raj Kishen Singh and others (Respondents to England), *Petitioners,*

versus

Huro Soonduree Dossee (Appellant to England), *Opposite Party.*

Mr. J. W. B. Money for Petitioners.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Opposite Party.

In a case where the period within which applications for leave to appeal to England expired during the Dusserah vacation, and the application was presented on the first day of the Court sitting after the vacation, when, though notice was served under the rules—no cause being shown to the contrary the appeal was admitted and the applicant allowed to incur large costs for translation and transcription and the record was nearly ready for transmission:

HELD that the plea of limitation could not, at this stage, be heard in bar to the admission of the appeal, and that the High Court was bound to allow it to go on subject to the orders of the Privy Council.

THIS is an application on the part of the respondent to England to have a case of appeal to Her Majesty in Council taken off the file.

The judgment from which the appeal to England has been presented is dated the 1st of April last. The six months within

which by the order in Council, applications for leave to appeal to England are to be presented expired, therefore, on the 1st October. By the arrangements for business made by this Court under the powers vested in it by the Act of Parliament, the Court was closed for all business, except applications of an emergent nature, between the 19th September and 13th November 1870. It re-opened for general business on the 14th November. By order of Court notice was publicly posted by which, amongst other things, it was directed that pleaders were not required to file applications of appeal and such like matters between the two dates I have mentioned.

The application for leave to appeal in this case was presented on the first day of the Court sitting after the vacation, namely, on the 14th November. Upon the filing of that application notice was served, in accordance with the rules relating to appeals to Her Majesty in Council, upon the pleaders who had appeared for the respondent at the hearing of the appeal. Service, it seems, was effected on the 24th November: and no cause being shown pursuant to that notice, the appeal was admitted by my order on the 2nd December.

The appellant thereupon appears to have proceeded with proper diligence, to have incurred large costs for translating and transcribing the record, and, in consequence, the appeal is nearly ready for transmission to England.

On the 24th of February last, Mr. Money obtained a rule calling upon the pleaders of the appellant to show cause why the appeal should not be taken off the file in consequence of its having been presented after the lapse of six months from the date of the judgment, for which reason, it was contended, that it was not in the power of the Court to admit the appeal.

I by no means wish to say that any unfair or imperfect representation of the facts was made on the occasion of obtaining the rule by Mr. Money, but certainly at the time of my granting this rule it was not fully present to my mind that notice had been duly served, that the appeal had been admitted without objection; and that, consequently, the appellant had been allowed to incur considerable expense, and that the appeal was, in fact, nearly ready for transmission.

Before going into the other points, th fore, which Mr. Money proposed to a I desired him to show why, under circumstances, he should be heard at all

On this part of the matter Mr. M referred to two cases, one reported in Bengal Law Reports,* page 126, Ori Jurisdiction, which is the case of G dhone Bermono *versus* Sreemul Munn bee and another. It appears to me that case has no bearing upon the present que In that case it was only decided that, case of a petition of appeal to England filed, due diligence must be shown in tra ting the appeal to the Privy Council, oth the High Court has power to interfere. is a case altogether different from the pr but it may be observed in passing th matter decided in that case has been provided for in another way, by the† made by this Court which came into in August last; but this is not a case application to take the appeal off the the ground of want of diligence.

Then my attention was called to the reported in I. Bengal Law Reports, pag Original Civil Jurisdiction, Tamvaco Skinner. Mr. Money appears to rely this case as justifying his present app tion. It seems to me that there is a difference between that case and the pre In that case the petition for leave to a to England was similarly presented o 18th November 1867, that is, on th day after the Court re-opened; an Justice Markby on an *ex-parte* applic allowed the appeal, subject to any applic which the defendants might make to the appeal off the file on the ground th had been presented after the prescribed That being so reserved, we find that th spondent immediately appeared, and o 7th December, that is to say, within three weeks after the presentation of th peal, the Court is called upon to decide ther it should be allowed to remain the file or no. The matter having been pressly reserved, and the appellant not ing been allowed to incur any expense, Court determined that it had not power, having before decided the point, to rec the appeal; and it was accordingly allowed.

In this case, on the contrary, the p was allowed full time to show cause ag

* 14 W. R., *Orig. Side*, 341.

† 14 W. R., *Rules*, 1.

admission of the appeal. He omitted to ar, or to show any cause whatever, and equently the appellant has been allow- o go on, and expend a large sum of y for the costs of the appeal; and it is, that has been done that the respond- w appears, and makes this application. not doubt that, if this application were ssful, the appellant would immediately application to the Judicial Committee e Privy Council; and I can hardly but that, in the circumstances, he would obtain leave to appeal; and I think it my duty to allow the appeal to go on t to the orders of the Privy Council to put the appellant to the great and, ceive, unnecessary expense of going to nd, engaging counsel there, and get- an order for the admission of the l.

xpress no opinion whether the decision mvaco *versus* Skinner was correct, or her, if correct, it applies equally to als presented in this side of the Court.

The 10th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

olvent's property—Official Assignee—Attachment.

Case No. 193 of 1869.

lar Appeal from a decision passed by the ond Subordinate Judge of the 24-Per- nnahs, dated the 25th May 1869.

nd Chunder Paul (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

nchee Lall Soor (Plaintiff) and another (Defendant), *Respondents.*

The Advocate-General for Appellant.

Mr. C. Piffard for Respondents.

e vesting of an insolvent's property in the Official gnee is liable to be divested by a sale in pursuance n attachment subsisting at the time of the vesting r.

Jackson, J.—The ground chiefly relied upon in this case as enabling the plaintiff to recover possession of this property was the precedence of the sale by the Official Assignee over that of the Court of the 24-Pergunnahs in execution. That point has been determined by the Full Bench;* but since that there has been further argument before us upon the other ground, on which the Subordinate Judge considered the plaintiff's purchase to be superior to that of the defendant. He observes: "It appears that the debtors "kept this property as security for debt "contracted from Boodh Sing and Bishen "Chand, who afterwards established their "mortgage before the Principal Sudder "Ameen of Moorshedabad, and obtained a "decree;" that appears to have been on the 30th April 1869, "making liable the said "property in satisfaction of their debt. It "also appears that the Official Assignee sold "the right, title, and interest of the debtors "in the said property to satisfy the said mort- "gage-debt. Under such circumstances, "the purchaser must be held to have acquired "the rights of the debtors as they stood at "the time of the mortgage, namely, the 30th "September 1866."

Mr. Piffard, in support of the decree, has contended that Boodh Sing and Bishen Chand, having obtained from the Court of Moorshedabad a decree for the sale of this property in satisfaction of their mortgage-debt, were entitled to carry out that sale in any mode which they thought proper; at any rate, with the consent of the judgment-debtor; and that, consequently, the sale by the Official Assignee on the application of the mortgagees, and joined in by them, was a valid sale in furtherance of the decree which they had obtained: and, further, that the mortgagees had conveyed all their rights to the plaintiff. Consequently, he maintains, in full conformity with the opinion expressed by the Full Bench on the late reference, that his client, the plaintiff, is still entitled to the property.

Now, if it be admitted that the mortgagees did join in this sale, of which, however, the proof, as shown by the Advocate-General, is very defective; still, if they had joined, it seems to me that this would not amount to a sale which could defeat a prior sale by order of the Court of the 24-Pergunnahs. The mortgagees could not themselves sell the

* 14 W. R., F. B., p. 33.

property. That which they had got was a decree in the Moorshedabad Court for the sale of the property in question. The appropriate and, so far as I know, the only mode of carrying out that decree was to apply to the Court of Moorshedabad for the execution of it, and in execution to have that property attached and sold. It is not denied by the learned Advocate-General, and, I think, we may safely say, that the purchase by Anund Chunder Paul in the 24-Pergunnahs' Court was subject to all the possible consequences of execution of the decree of the Moorshedabad Court; but it seems clear that the Court of the 24-Pergunnahs sold all the right, title, and interest of the judgment-debtor as it stood at the time of the vesting of the insolvent's property in the Official Assignee, and that such vesting was liable to be divested by a sale in pursuance of an attachment subsisting at the time of the vesting order; and, consequently, when the Official Assignee sold, so far as he sold the right, title, and interest of the judgment-debtor, he sold something which no longer existed—something which had already passed to Anund Chunder Paul.

I do not think it necessary for us to say whether the purchaser acquired the rights of the mortgagees or not. If he did, it seems clear that all he could obtain would be to stand in their shoes and apply for the execution of the mortgage-decree; but I do not at all wish to decide whether he has that right or not.

I think, therefore, upon this ground as well as upon the other, that the plaintiff's case fails, and that the defendant ought not to be deprived by the plaintiff of the property which he purchased. The decree of the Lower Court will be reversed, and the plaintiff's suit dismissed with costs.

Glover, J.—I concur.

The 10th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwar nath Mitter, *Judges.*

Wassilat—Julkur—Approximate valu

Case No. 320 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order ed by the Officiating Judge of Pur dated the 30th May 1870, affirmi order of the Subordinate Judge of District, dated the 22nd November 18

Shaik Enaet Ali (Decree-holder), *Appel*

versus

Baboo Sobhnath Misser (Judgment-de *Respondent.*

Mr. C. Gregory for Appellant.

Baboos Khettur Mohun Mookerjee an Kishen Dyal Roy for Respondent.

In a suit for wassilat, where it was decreed th value of the produce of a julkur should be ascert in execution, the Lower Appellate Court was h have come to a right conclusion without any er law in taking the nearest approximate value of th duce indicated by the evidence and the pl statement.

Bayley, J.—We think this special a must be dismissed, but without costs.

The case arises out of the execution decree in regard to the value of the pro of a julkur. The plaintiff sued for p sion and wassilat according to the ma value of produce in the month of Assin.

As to the wassilat, the decree was th should be ascertained in execution.

The Subordinate Judge went into th dence as to wassilat, and found that amount stated in the plaint (125 ru was the amount due according to the dence.

The Lower Appellate Court has affir that decision.

In special appeal the contention is there ought to have been a detailed inves tion into the actual amount of wassila directed in the decretal order; and that it only for the purposes of the suit that valuation was estimated at Rupees 125. reading the plaint it appears that this is not The valuation of Rupees 125 in the pl

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as really laid as the equivalent of the loss, e replacement of which the plaintiff ught in that suit, and the Subordinate dge has found as a fact upon the evidence t the plaintiff is not entitled to more than sum of Rupees 125 which he claimed in plaint. It is true that the Lower Appel- Court did not give in full details of the dence, but the Lower Appellate Court ught that on the whole the more just t was to be derived from the nearest oximate value of the produce of the r indicated by the evidence and the tiff's statement. The Lower Appellate t added that the lease made by the ment-debtor when in wrongful posses- was not a good criterion. The Lower ellate Court then proceeds to affirm the ion of the Court below as correct, and act has substantially found on the evi- ce that Rupees 125 was the proper

here is a cross-objection by the defend- urging that the amount of wassilat t to have been ascertained not upon tal produce, but according to the prin- laid down in page 445, Volume IX. ly Reporter. We think that the prin- adopted there cannot apply here, for was a special case of indigo more or dependent upon the outlay and other gencies of that peculiar business. think that on the whole the Lower ts have come to a right conclusion out any error in law.

the special appellant, plaintiff, has failed special appeal, and as the defendant, l respondent, raised a cross-appeal on lease wrongly given by him and has d in it, we decree that each party bear own costs of this appeal.

The 10th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Act XXXV. 1858—Lunatic—Guardian.

Case No. 409 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Nuddea, dated the 3rd September 1870.

Bholanath Mookerjee (Petitioner), *Appellant,*

versus

Grish Mohinee Debia (Opposite Party), *Respondent.*

Baboo Khettur Mohun Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Doorga Dass Dutt for Respondent.

A Court cannot under Act XXXV. of 1858 make over charge of the property and person of an alleged lunatic to a guardian, until it has adjudged him to be of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs.

Loch, J.—In cases under Act XXXV. of 1858, the Civil Court making the inquiry, as provided by that Act, is required to determine whether the alleged lunatic is or is not of unsound mind; and it is not until the Court has adjudged such person to be of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs, that it can make over charge of his property and his person to a guardian.

The Judge in this case has not come to any finding that Bholanath is of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs; and from the evidence on the record we are unable to come to any such finding.

We, therefore, set aside the order passed by the Judge directing a certificate to be given to Grish Mohinee, leaving it to the parties to renew their application if so advised; but such application must, as ruled by this Court in the case reported in Volume V. Weekly Reporter, page 54, Miscellaneous Rulings, be duly verified.

The 10th March 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Evidence—Pleadings—Decree for accounts—Execution.

Case No. 2274 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Hooghly, dated the 20th June 1870, modifying a decision of the Assistant Collector of Howrah, dated the 8th April 1870.

Woomanath Roy Chowdhry and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Sreenath Singh and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Obhoy Churn Bose* for Appellants.

Baboo Umbika Churn Bose for Respondents.

Where a suit under Act X. of 1859 was decreed by the Collector on the ground of an *ex-parte* inquiry and report, that admission of which as evidence was opposed by the defendant, and the Judge in appeal reversed the decision : HELD that plaintiff might have withdrawn his suit with permission to sue again under Section 97, Code of Civil Procedure ; but that having chosen to rely on the Collector's opinion, he had no right, after the Judge had decided against him, to supplement his case by other evidence.

Where a decree requires the judgment-debtor to render accounts, he can only discharge himself by accounting for all the moneys that have come into his hands, and it is always open to the decree-holder to show that this has not been done.

Glover, J.—THIS was a suit against an agent for money collected as rent and for accounts under Act X. of 1859. The defendant is said to have been appointed in Assin 1275 and discharged in Pous of the same year, during which time he collected Rupees 3,771 from the ryots and remitted to the proprietor only Rupees 2,293.

The defendant said that he had made no collections at all and had no accounts to give.

The Collector gave plaintiff a decree for the balance of collections, *viz.*, Rupees 1,375, and for the account papers. But the Judge on appeal reversed that part of the deci which decreed the money and made the fendant liable only for an account.

We see no reason to interfere in this c The amount of collections deposed to by gomashta is considerably less than the plaintiff himself admits to have recei and to prove the ba ance there is only *ex-parte* inquiry made by the plain Mohurrir. It is obvious that this acc could be no evidence against the defend and the Judge was right in rejectin But it is argued by Mr. Allan for the sp appellant that, inasmuch as this inqui the plaintiff's Mohurrir was admitte evidence in the first Court, and was not ob ed to on the part of the defendant, the pl iff was led to suppose that it formed le sufficient evidence in support of his c whereas if he had known its inadmissi he would have brought forward the themselves to give testimony and to how much they had paid to the defend gomashtas.

Now, we find that although the Offici Collector did admit the report as evide he did so in the face of strong oppositio the part of the defendant. This is c from the judgment, where it is noted the revenue agent employed for the d dant "took objection to the reception o "tomâr" papers on the ground that were not books kept in the ordinary co of business, and that the inquiry was ducted *ex-parte* and could not bind fendant. The special appellant, there could not have been taken by sur when the Judge in his turn consid the question. The special appellant have mended his case in the Lower C and have withdrawn his suit with pe sion to sue again under Section 97 o Civil Procedure Code. As it was, he to rest his case on the opinion of the Co tor that the Mohurrir's report w s evid and has no right to ask to supplemen case now that the Judge has decided point against him.

It was said in the course of the argu that the decree for accounts is absol useless to the plaintiff; as the order not compel the defendant to render sati tory accounts, but only accounts which be totally false and useless to the plai To this it may be replied that under decree the defendant as agent can only charge himself by showing that he has p

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accounted for all the moneys that have e into his hands, and for which he is ountable, and it will always be open to plaintiff to show that the defendant has complied with the terms of the decree. he special appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 10th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Invalid transfer—Khas possession.

Case No. 2290 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Cuttack, dated the 20th une 1870, modifying a decision of the oonsiff of that District, dated the 18th ebruary 1870.

Suddye Purira and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

oistub Purira and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter for Respondents.

re a ryot makes a transfer of a tenure which is ransferable, the landlord is entitled to look to him e party liable for the rent, but is not entitled to possession.

mp, J.—We think there is no ground is special appeal. The plaintiff has got ree in both Courts to the effect that the fer of the tenure by the defendant, was his ryot, to a third party was id, inasmuch as it was not a transfer- tenure, and was made without the ent of the plaintiff, the superior holder. plaintiff is, therefore, entitled to look e former tenant for the rent; and as the es revert to their former status, he is entitled to khas possession. He is simply led to look to the former tenant as the y liable for the rent, and not the feree.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 10th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Solehnamah—Evidence.

Case No. 2330 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, dated the 17th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 17th February 1869.

Sreemutty Dossee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Pelaram Dossee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellant.

Baboo Romanath Bose for Respondent.

In a suit for possession where plaintiff put in a copy of a solehnamah to which defendant was not a party: HELD that, although no question of right or title could be decided adversely to the defendant on the basis of that agreement, yet it would be evidence that by an order of Court passed on that solehnamah the plaintiff was put into possession.

Glover, J.—THIS was a suit to recover possession of a tank called Boyshtub Pushkurnee, measuring 2 beegahs, and to have it declared that the plaintiff held this tank under an ancestral lakheraj title The defendant is the talookdar of the mouzah. The plaintiff alleged that he had been dispossessed of the tank in dispute by the talookdar on the 11th of Kartick 1273. The Moonsiff found that the plaintiff had not been able to prove any lakheraj title; and also that he had not been in possession at any time within 12 years. The Subordinate Judge, on the contrary, considered that the plaintiff had shown that he was in possession in the year 1273, and was therefore not barred, and that from the copy of a solehnamah entered into between the plaintiff and

certain other parties, as well as by two taidads, copies of which had been brought from the Collector's Office of West Burdwan, as also from the oral evidence adduced by him, the plaintiff had proved his lakheraj title, and was entitled to recover.

In special appeal it is contended that there was no legal evidence as to the question of possession within 12 years; and likewise no legal evidence on which the Subordinate Judge could decide in favor of the plaintiff's title. With regard to the issue of limitation, we do not think that the Subordinate Judge was wrong. There is evidence, however meagre it may be, to the fact of the plaintiff having exercised certain rights of possession in this tank. There is one witness at least who deposes to having seen the plaintiff catch fish therein on many separate occasions—a thing he was not likely to have done had he not been in some sort of possession. There is also the solehnamah of 1273, in which the plaintiff was on the one part, and Gooroo Churn Bhoohya, Dusruth Goohee, Roop Chand Palit, and Doorga Ram Panjah on the other part, and in which it is distinctly stated that the plaintiff did get possession of the tank by relinquishment on the part of the defendants in that year. No doubt, as the defendant in this suit was not a party to the solehnamah, no question of right or title could be decided adversely to his interest on the basis of this agreement; but for all that it would be evidence that in the year 1273, by an order of the Court based on that solehnamah, the plaintiff was put into possession of this tank. So far, therefore, we agree with the Subordinate Judge. On the other question, however, we think that the special appellant's contention must succeed. The Subordinate Judge has taken the solehnamah above referred to as evidence of the plaintiff's title. Now, this document, it is quite clear, could not be any evidence as against the present defendant, the talookdar. The parties to that suit were in no way connected with him. One of them, it is true, is styled his naib; but there is nothing whatever to show that he was sued as naib of the zemindar, or that he acted on his behalf. The solehnamah, therefore, however good evidence it might be against the three persons who were parties thereto, cannot be any evidence against the zemindar, defendant. The other evidence into which the Subordinate Judge has gone are copies of two taidads; and it is alleged that one of these taidads covers one beegah, and the other taidad the other bee which comprise the two beegahs now dispute. It is not denied that these taid do not contain any boundaries or any m tion of a tank; and there is no oral evide which can connect the tank with any of lands comprised within the boundarie these taidads. If it could be shown these taidads cover lands in which tank had been subsequently excavated by plaintiff or his ancestor, it would be s thing; but this is not shown, and there i evidence to connect the two facts togeth

It has been contended by the pleade the special respondent that, under the cumstances of this case, the plaintiff wa no way bound to prove his lakheraj title; that, if he succeeded in showing that he held as lakherajdar, and was ousted by defendant, he was entitled to be rest to possession, leaving the zemindar at li to sue him for resumption if he shou so advised; and two cases have been q in support of this contention. The first i case of Boodha Mudha *versus* Khyrat and others, to be found in Volume V., We Reporter, page 269; but that case dently went upon the fact that the pla had been suddenly, wrongfully, and rec turned out of possession when he bro the suit; and therefore that case pa more of the nature of a possessory ac and it is not denied that, if the plaintiff brought the present suit under the provi of Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859, w six months of his being dispossessed b talookdar, he could have recovered posse without any proof of his lakheraj title. second case is one to be found in Vo VI., Weekly Reporter, page 19c, Sh Goburdhun and others *versus* Sheikh T and others; but this case differs very m rially from the case before us, inasmuc in this case the plaintiff came into Cou pressly desiring that his title might be de ed; and, of course, before his title as lakher could be declared, it was necessary for hi prove that title. Granting, therefore, that decisions referred to lay down the law rectly, they do not apply to the present c The plaintiff cannot avoid the general of law that, where a person comes into C seeking for a declaration of title, he bound to prove that he possesses that t We think that the Lower Appellate Court come to its finding upon no legal evide The decision of the Subordinate Judge therefore, reversed, and that of the Court restored with costs of all the Courts.

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The 6th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

closure—Notice to Mortgagor—Hindoo widow—Maintenance.

Case No. 1937 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Additional Judge of Tir- d, dated the 17th June 1870, affirming decision of the Subordinate Judge of t District, dated the 31st December 69.

ssamut Khukroo Misrain (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

muck Lall Dass (Plaintiff) and another (Defendant), *Respondents.*

r. C. Gregory and *Baboo Debendro Narain Bose* for Appellant.

. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Respondents.

sion to give notice to the mortgagor or his repre- e is sufficient to vitiate the whole of the foreclo- ceedings.

ndoo widow's maintenance is a charge upon the estate in whosesoever hands the estate may

er, J.—THE facts of this case were et out in the High Court's remand- of the 30th June 1869.*

Lower Court was directed to find (1) r Madhub's deed of sale was estab- so as to give him the right to have of foreclosure; and (2) whether Mus- Khukroo, the widow of Purmessur, was to any share of the estate on the of her husband's being separated he family, and therefore entitled as to an equity of redemption over the ged property and to notice of fore- e.

Court below found on these issues adhub's purchase was *bond fide*, and was entitled to notice as respects the t of his purchase, *viz.*, 15 beegahs; hat Mussamut Khukroo had no claim, husband having lived and died joint the other members of the family.

* 12 W. R., p. 105.

Mussamut Khukroo appeals to this Court again, on the ground that, as the plaintiff's suit had been declared to be bad as against Madhub, on the ground that no notice of foreclosure had been served upon him, it should have been dismissed altogether, the mortgage-transaction not being divisible.

If the mortgagor or his representative had preferred this objection, I should have thought it a good one. It is clear from the proceedings which have been taken since the remand that the mortgagor's representative, *viz.*, Madhub, was not served with notice of foreclosure; and that, as regards the amount of his purchase, the mortgagee's right has been disallowed. This omission on the part of the mortgagee would, I think, have been sufficient to vitiate the whole of the foreclosure-proceedings, and have compelled Jhoomuck Lall to commence proceedings *de novo.*

But it appears to me that the present special appellant, Mussamut Khukroo, is not in a position to raise the objection, inasmuch as she has been declared not entitled to any share in the estate, but only to maintenance. Her case was that she succeeded to the separate estate of her husband Purmessur Dutt; and had she succeeded in proving that her husband was separate in estate from his family, she would have had a life-interest in the mortgaged property, and have been entitled to notice of foreclosure, as her husband the mortgagor's representative. But with the finding that her husband died a member of the joint family, all her claim disappeared, and she has no interest whatever in the family-estate. It has been contended that her claim for maintenance is a charge on the estate, and that, therefore, she has an interest in keeping that estate in the family; but, as a matter of fact, change of ownership would not affect her lien; and if she failed in getting her maintenance from the members of her late husband's family, she could make the estate chargeable with it into whose hands soever it had fallen under the foreclosure.

Mussamut Khukroo thrust herself into this case as an intervening defendant under Section 73 of the Civil Procedure Code. She has had her claim inquired into; and the decision having been against her, I do not see what further interest she has in the matter, or why she should be allowed by a side-wind to raise a question which the parties really interested have not thought it worth while to agitate.

I think that this special appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Kemp, J.—I entirely concur.

The 6th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Arrears of rent—Registered tenant—Hindoo Widow—Reversioner—Effect of sale.

Case No. 2286 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Kungpore, dated the 30th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Officiating Moonsiff of that District, dated the 26th February 1870.

Anund Moyee Dossee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mohendro Narain Doss (one of the Defendants), *Respondent.*

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Appellant.

Baboo Bykuntnath Paul for Respondent.

When arrears of rent become due, a zemindar is not bound to look beyond his books for the party liable, except when he has recognized other persons as his tenants either by receipt of rent or in other ways.

Where neither the Hindoo widow who has succeeded by inheritance nor the reversioner chooses to pay the arrears of rent which have fallen due upon a tenure, it must, if sold for such arrears, pass to the purchaser by the sale.

Bayley, J.—The plaintiff in this case alleges that the jote in dispute, named Jote Purikhit, belonged to one Hur Gobind; that on the death of Hur Gobind, his widow Hurry Pria succeeded to it as his heir under the Hindoo Law; that during the illness of Hurry Pria, she caused the name of her father Pursooram to be registered in the zemindar's books; that certain arrears of rent falling due to the zemindar on account of the tenure, a decree was obtained by the latter in a suit against the said Pursooram; that in execution of the said decree the tenure was put up to sale under Act VIII. of 1835; that the husband of the plaintiff purchased it at that sale on the 1st 1861; and that the husband of the pl and after his death the plaintiff h remained in undisturbed possession until the 31st July 1869, when the defe obtained a decree against the plaintiff the provisions of Section 15, Act X 1859. The plaintiff has, therefore, b the present suit within one year fro date of the award under Section 15 f establishment of her title and the co tion of her possession, no possession yet been taken by the defendant in tion of that award.

The defendant in his answer urge neither Purikhit nor his widow, Hurry had any rights or interests in the pro that the real name of the property w Munsaram; that it belonged to the d ant's father who remained in possess it down to the date of his death; t defendant was in undisturbed poss until the date of ouster alleged in th tion 15 case; that the suit was barr the general law of limitation; that th under Act VIII. of 1835 relied upon b plaintiff was collusive and fraudulent; that, even if the property did belo Hurry Pria, the defendant, being the sioner to the estate of her deceased hu was entitled to hold it after her death that the sale of the rights and intere Hurry Pria could not pass the prope the plaintiff's husband.

The Moonsiff, Baboo Saroda Pe Chatterjee, in a very elaborate and judgment, found that the proper question was the property of Purikhi husband of Hurry Pria; that Purikhi Hurry Pria, and afterwards the husba the plaintiff, and the plaintiff herself, w continuous possession of it; that the no collusion or fraud of any kind wh in the sale made under Act VIII. of that Pursooram, the father of Hurry was the recorded tenant on the zemin books; that the arrears sued for by th mindar were actually due to him; and the sale was made in due process of With reference to the question as to wh the jote was the property of the defend father or not, the Moonsiff observed the evidence on the record was sufficie prove clearly and distinctly that the name of the jote was Jote Purikhit, and Jote Munsaram as alleged by the defend and that neither the defendant nor his fa had any rights or interests in it.

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he Subordinate Judge, while upholding, ppeal, the views taken by the Moonsiff e other questions involved in the case, eversed his decision upon two grounds, 1st, that the name of Pursooram alone used in the certificate of sale, the sale right, title, and interest of Pursooram t convey to the husband of the plaintiff ing more than the rights of that indi-l; and as Pursooram was a mere *bena-r*, nothing whatever passed under that and, secondly, that a sale for arrears nt during the lifetime of a Hindoo would convey nothing more to the aser than the right, title, and interest widow herself, and could not, therefore, the reversioner after her death.

is decision, we regret to say, is entirely eous in law. Whatever might have the motives which induced Hurry Pria the name of her father registered in mindar's books, there is no proof of any against the zemindar; and if arrears of had actually become due upon the e, the zemindar was fully justified in the registered tenant for those arrears, ell as in selling the tenure as the pro-of that registered tenant. A zemindar t bound to look beyond his own books, t when he has recognized other persons e names are not entered in his books) nants, either by receipt of rent or other-; and the zemindar in this case, therefore, ustified in suing Pursooram as the person was liable to him for the arrears due the tenure, and in causing it to be sold nsooram's property. It is not even ded that no such arrears of rent were the zemindar, nor has any irregularity y kind been pointed out in the sale. r such circumstances, it is impossible to out why the Subordinate Judge should gone beyond the issues raised by the s in the Court of first instance, when lear from his judgment that he has not to a conclusion different from that ed at by the Moonsiff with reference to issues.

he second ground upon which the Sub-nate Judge rests his decision is equally able. It has been over and over held is Court, as well as by the Privy Coun-hat a Hindoo widow who has succeeded e estate of her deceased husband by of inheritance fully represents that e; and if neither the widow nor the re-oners choose to pay the arrears which had fallen due to the zemindar, the tenure must pass to the purchaser by the sale.

If the sale had taken place for arrears of revenue, there could be no doubt whatever that the reversioner could not have been permitted to contend that the estate did not pass to the purchaser, merely because, at the time when the sale took place, the party representing that estate was a Hindoo widow; and we see no reason whatever for coming to a different conclusion in the case of a saleable tenure caused to be sold by the zemindar for arrears of rent due upon itself—the Hindoo widow being the representative of the estate in both cases, and the land being in both cases equally hypothecated for the arrears referred to.

Considering these errors to be errors in law, we reverse the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, and affirm that of the Court of first instance, the defendant being liable to pay to the plaintiff all the costs of this litigation.

The 13th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Bond-suit—Special appeal.

Case No. 432 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Backergunge, dated the 25th August 1870, reversing an order of the Moonsiff of Burrisaul, dated the 11th July 1870.

Tripoora Soonduree (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Koylash Chunder Bose (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Baboos Anund Chunder Ghossal and *Tarucknauth Dutt* for Appellant.

Baboos Aukhil Chunder Sein and *Hurremohun Chuckerbutty* for Respondent.

Special appeal is not barred in the case of a claim for money due under a bond for less than 500 rupees, where the property pledged under the bond is made liable.

Loch, J.—A PRELIMINARY objection to the hearing of this appeal has been raised

to the effect that the original claim, being for money due under a bond for less than 500 rupees, was cognizable by the Court of Small Causes, and consequently no special appeal lies to this Court. But looking at the judgment, we find that, though the claim was upon a bond, yet the property pledged under it was made liable for the amount of the decree. Therefore, it is clearly not a case in which special appeal is barred.

With regard to the steps taken by the decree-holder in this case, we cannot concur with the Judge in thinking that they were not *bonâ fide*. We find that, referring only to the steps taken in 1868, the Judge has come to the conclusion that the proceedings were not *bonâ fide*, because there was a petition made by the decree-holder which, the Judge says, shows that he voluntarily desisted from issuing proclamation of sale, and allowed the proceedings to fall to the ground. Now, even if the decree-holder did so, it does not show that up to that time the proceedings already taken were not *bonâ fide*.

We reverse the order of the Judge with costs of this appeal and of the Lower Appellate Court, and restore the judgment of the Court of first instance.

The 13th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Mesne-profits—Deduction—Execution.

Case No. 474 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of Nuddea, dated the 9th December 1870.

Nubo Coomar Chatterjee (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Ramdhun Chatterjee (Purchaser of decree), *Respondent.*

Mr. J. S. Rochfort for Appellant.

Babôo Grish Chunder Mookerjee for Respondent.

A judgment-debtor claiming a deduction on a of mesne-profits decreed against him should ma his claim when called upon by the Court ex the decree. Failing to do so, he loses his rem

Loch, J.—We see no ground for in ing with the judgment of the Court be

It appears that a decree was m which Rajendur Chunder, Saroda Pe and Nubo Coomar, the petitioner now us, were originally made jointly lia mesne-profits for a period commencin 1262 to 1266, and the amount there ascertained by an Ameen. The Pr Sudder Ameen, after hearing objec the investigation of the Ameen, fo the 8th December 1866 that a sum of rupees was due from these parties From that order Rajendur Chunder ap to the High Court, urging that he wa tled to have a deduction on account vernment revenue paid by him; an that he should not be made jointly with Saroda Pershad and Nubo Coom the whole of the mesne-profits. With to the first ground, the Court held th had not proved that he had paid any Go ment revenue, and consequently his for a deduction on that account was founded; and as to the second objection Court declared that he was liable for half, and that Saroda Pershad and Coomar were liable for the other half o mesne-profits. Subsequent to this made by the High Court on the June 1867, Nubo Coomar applied Court stating that his share was 4½ pie, and that he ought only to be liable to that extent; and further th should not be made liable jointly with S Pershad; and he also claimed a ded on account of Government revenue. High Court, on the 25th November amended its order, making him liable rately for mesne-profits to the ext a 4½-pie share, but did not comply his prayer for a deduction on accou Government revenue.

The decree-holder afterwards took execution, and the only objection that N Coomar raised before the Lower Court that he was not liable for mesne-pr But the Subordinate Judge has held he was liable. He now comes up in a to this Court, not upon that ground, entirely upon a separate ground, na that he was entitled to a deduction the amount of the mesne-profits found be due from him on account of Govern

h

e which he had paid; and he adds he was not a party to the investi- n made by the Ameen as to the amount mesne-profits.

e think that it is now too late for him this Court to interfere in any way. clear from the papers on the record he was a party to the investigation by the Ameen; and further there is g on the record to show that he has any Government revenue; and even were able to show that, it is not to Court that he should make an applica- or a deduction on account of Govern- revenue, but he should, when called by the Lower Court executing the to show cause why he should not pay mount of the mesne-profits claimed by cree-holder, have brought forward that ion and claimed a deduction on account vernment revenue. As he has failed so, we see no reason for interfering he order passed by the Court below.

e appeal is dismissed with costs, two mohurs being allowed as pleader's

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The 13th March 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

cate under Act XXVII., 1860—Government Promissory Notes.

Case No. 477 of 1870.

lleneous Appeal from an order pass- by the Judge of Nuddea, dated the 18th ecember 1870.

idya Soonduree Dossee (Petitioner), *Appellant.*

oos Ashootosh Dhur and *Kumola Kant Sein* for Appellant.

Hindoo widow holding a certificate under Act d. of 1870 to collect debts due to the estate of her ed son, who had been allowed to draw interest on Government Promissory Notes which, though d in the certificate, stood apparently in the name late husband, having applied for authority to ne- those Promissory Notes:

d that she was bound to show how she got pos- n of those notes:

Loch, J.—It appears to us that there is no sufficient information before the Court as to the facts of this case to enable it to make any order such as desired by the appellant.

It is stated that certain Government Promissory Notes are in the names of one Radha Kishore Puramanick, who is said to have been the father of Gopal Lall; that Radha Kishore had left two sons, Gopal Lall and Gobind Chunder; that Gopal Lall has deceased; that his mother, Bidya Soonduree, now petitioner before us, has obtained a certificate as heiress to Gopal Lall; and that Gobind Chunder is still alive. It is also stated that there has been a partition of the property left by Radha Kishore, and, according to that partition, the Promissory Notes have fallen to the share of Gopal Lall.

These are mere allegations on the part of the petitioner, Bidya Soonduree. She has obtained a certificate under Act XXVII. of 1860 to collect debts due to the estate of Gopal Lall, and among the property belonging to Gopal Lall these Government Promissory Notes have been entered in that certificate, and she has been allowed to draw interest upon them. She now wants to extend her powers under that certificate, and to have authority to negotiate those Promissory Notes. If she were able to show that these Promissory Notes are her sole property, she might, though she has a limited interest in the property, be entitled to have a power to negotiate those notes. Until we see how it was that she got possession of any property which is apparently in the name of Radha Kishore Puramanick, we can make no order such as she requires.

We, therefore, reject this appeal, leaving her to make a fresh application, if so advised, setting forth clearly and distinctly all the facts of the case.

The 13th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Section 15, Act XIV., 1859—Costs.

Case No. 479 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Jessore, dated the 21st September 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 17th December 1869.

Radha Kristo Chaklanuvis (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Baboo Kalee Prosunno Roy (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboo Motee Lall Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Sreenath Doss for Respondent.

In cases under Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859, it is in the discretion of the Court to give costs either as provided in Section 1 of the rules passed by the High Court under Act XX. of 1865, or (if the proceeding be a miscellaneous case) according to Section 8 of those rules.

Loch, J.—This is a special appeal, and the question before us is whether, in awarding costs in this case, the Lower Courts have in any way acted contrary to law. We cannot say that the orders of the Lower Courts in this matter are not warranted by law; for even if we regard this case as a summary suit, which the pleader for the petitioner wishes us to do, there is nothing laid down in the rules made by the High Courts in pursuance of Act XX. of 1865 which prohibits the Lower Courts giving fees at the rate at which they have given in the present case.

Cases brought under Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859, are called "suits" throughout, and it appears to be in the discretion of the Court to give costs, either as provided by Section 1 of the High Court's Rules* or, if the proceeding before it be a miscellaneous case, according to Section 8. It c be said that this case comes under S 8, and therefore we cannot say th Courts below have acted contrary to l giving fees under Section 1.

Such being the case, we dismiss th cial appeal with costs, and allow s rupees as pleader's fees.

* W. R., Rules, p. 15.

The 13th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwar Mitter, *Judges.*

Conveyance—Minor—Plea of minori

Case No. 2166 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pa the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, the 29th April 1870, reversing a d of the Moonsiff of Hurripal, dated th September 1869.

Puran Chunder Paul (one of the Defend *Appellant,*

versus

Koroona Moyee Dossee (Plaintiff) a another (Defendant), *Respondents.*

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Appell

Baboo Taruck Nath Sein for Respond

The plea of minority can be used to protect a but not to injure third parties, *e.g.*, where a sale berately made by a minor at a time when he ciently advanced in years to understand the n the transaction, and he receives the full amount purchase-money, although the conveyance is in reason of his minority, he must refund the consid money before he can get back the property.

Mitter, J.—We are of opinion that, the plaintiff can be permitted to recov disputed property in this case, he is b to refund to the purchaser, defendant, full amount of the purchase-money rec by him from the latter, the interest that amount being set off against the p realized by the purchaser from the d his purchase down to that of the refund, of the deposit of the principal amou the purchase-money by the plaintiff. the Courts have concurrently found th sale was deliberately made by the pl at a time when he was sufficiently vanced in years to understand the natu

b

ansaction, and that he had received the amount of the purchase-money from defendant. Although, so far as the vali- of the sale is concerned, the plaintiff not quite a major at the time when he ted the conveyance, there is no just n why he should not refund now to the aser the amount of the consideration- y paid by the latter. This, then, the iff must do before he can get back the rty. The plea of minority cannot be to injure third parties, but it can be only to protect the minor. We think under the circumstances, the plaintiff to pay to the defendant (the purchas- e costs of this litigation; and our de- is that the plaintiff should get posses- of the disputed property subject to the ion of his paying the amount of the ase-money to the defendant, or of de- g it in Court within two months from e of this decree, the purchaser-defend- not being held responsible for any which he might derive from the pro- up to that date.

The 13th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Defendant as witness.

Case No. 2382 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Rungpore, d the 13th August 1870, reversing a ion of the Moonsiff of Buddiakhalee, d the 25th February 1870.

ally Mahomed Bukshee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

n Chunder Roy Chowdhry (Defendant), *Respondent.*

boo Rash Beharee Ghose for Appellant.

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Respondent.

re a defendant, when summoned as a witness, does ppear, the Court is bound to adjudicate upon the n of the sufficiency of his excuse for not ap- ing.

Bayley, J.—The plaintiff sued to establish his right to, and to obtain possession of, certain lands as lakheraj under a deed of sale.

The defendant's case was that the lands were mâl.

The plaintiff rested his case entirely on the defendant's evidence, and undertook to abide by it. The defendant did not appear when summoned. The first Court then decided the case under Section 170, Act VIII. of 1859, against the defendant.

On appeal, the Lower Appellate Court has reversed that decision. The Lower Appellate Court states that the plaintiff and the defendant were both present before it, and as the plaintiff stated that he would abide by any evidence that would be given by the defendant, and as the defendant, when examined, stated that the lands in suit appertained to the jote of Juffer Mahomed, that he received the rents of the said jote, and that he knew nothing about the lakheraj character of the lands, the Lower Appellate Court was of opinion that the plaintiff's suit should be dismissed.

In special appeal the contention on the part of the plaintiff is that there was no sufficient cause shown by the defendant as to why he did not appear in the first Court when summoned; that the plaintiff did not implicitly rely on the defendant's evidence, but summoned him only as an ordinary witness in the case; and that the defendant did not in his depositions show any personal knowledge of the facts of the case.

We think that both the Courts below have erred in law in their decision. The Court of first instance ought to have gone into and adjudicated upon the question of the sufficiency or insufficiency of the defendant's excuse for not appearing when summoned before the first Court; and the Lower Appellate Court has wrongly considered that it was bound by the fact of the plaintiff relying upon the defendant's evidence, and by considering that, if the defendant stated that the lands were not lakheraj, the Court was bound to decide that they were not so. The Court is to come to a finding, independently of the consent of the parties, upon the whole evidence before it. Irrespective of this, we have heard the deposition of the defendant, and it shows that the facts he deposed to are not based upon his personal knowledge.

We think, therefore, that the case should be sent back to the Moonsiff, who will allow the parties to adduce further evidence that they may choose to give, and upon the whole evidence come to a finding as to whether the lands are lakheraj as stated by plaintiff, or are mâl as stated by defendant.

The costs of this appeal will abide the ultimate result.

The 13th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Collectorate peon—Service of notice—Evidence.

Case No. 2396 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Rungpore, dated the 8th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Officiating Collector of that District, dated the 27th August 1869.

Moinoollah and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Goluck Monee Chowdhrain (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Appellants.

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Respondent.

A Collectorate peon's return of service of notice is not admissible as legal evidence.

Mitter, J.—It is not necessary for us to adjudicate upon the various grounds taken in this memorandum of special appeal. It is sufficient for us to say that the legal service of notice was distinctly disputed by the defendant, special appellant, and the plaintiff has given no evidence whatever to show that the notice was served within the period and in the manner prescribed by law. The return of the Collectorate peon is not admissible as legal evidence, nor was that document put in at the proper time, nor was the peon examined on oath as he ought to have been.

We, therefore, dismiss the plaintiff's suit for enhanced rent upon the ground of non-service of notice, and restore the decree of the first Court, dated the 30th July 1 the plaintiff being liable to pay to the fendant all the costs of this litigation. question as to whether the tenure of the fendant is liable to enhancement or n left open.

The 14th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwar Mitter, *Judges.*

Hajuts or remissions.

Case No. 2399 of 1870 under Act X. 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Officiating Judge of Rungpore, the 18th August 1870, affirming a de of the Deputy Collector of that Dis dated the 30th November 1869.

Panaoollah Nushyo (Defendant), *Appell*

versus

Nubodeep Chunder Shaha (Plaintiff) *Respondent.*

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty Respondent.

A ryot can have no claim in law to hajuts (or sions), which, being acts of grace on the part landlord, rest solely on his discretion.

Mitter, J.—We think there is no er law in the judgment of the Lower A late Court in this case.

The plaintiff has given evidence to p the grounds of enhancement mentione the notice, and the hajuts (or remissions) ferred to by the Judge are exceptional th for which the defendant in this case, w a ryot whose tenure was created in only, can have no claim in law, they b acts of grace on the part of a landlord, rest solely at his discretion in every spect.

We dismiss the special appeal with co

The 15th March 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

atory decree—Execution—Civil Ameen.

Case No. 401 of 1870.

ellaneous Appeal from an order passed the Judge of Patna, dated the 1st ly 1870, affirming an order of the nsif of that District, dated the 18th nary 1870.

ya Lall (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

haikh Munowur Hossein and others (Decree-holders), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

hee Mahomed Yusuf for Respondents.

re a plaintiff had obtained a decree declaring his to erect a *gurrandee:* HELD that it was not the ss of the Ameen in execution to take any part in ction, and that what was done by the Ameen at ance of the decree-holder could not be regarded act of the Court.

ckson, J.—THERE is no doubt of the that, as the Judge observes, it was not usiness of the Ameen in execution of ecree to take any part in the erection *gurrandee,* which the plaintiff had declaration of his right to erect; and lication had been made in proper time to the Judge's Court or to this Court proceedings, we think the defendant have been entitled to an order to stay tion, and the plaintiff would then have left to erect such a *gurrandee* as the of this Court authorized him to erect, y damage resulting therefrom to the iant would have been the subject of y in the proper place. At the same we do not see our way to making an now for the taking away of this *gur-*; and it does not appear to us neces- that we should make any such order; e the Judge has declared, and we he has correctly declared, that what een done in this case by the Ameen at ance of the plaintiff must be regard- ot as the act of the Court, but the act e plaintiff himself; and consequently ing which results hereafter, and which be the subject of enquiry, must be with as if the *gurrandee* had been erected by the plaintiff. That being so, we think the appeal ought to be dismissed; but under the circumstances each party must pay his own costs.

The 15th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Civil Court—Minors—Act XL. of 1858.

Case No. 436 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Patna, dated the 23rd August 1870.

Mussamut Mohamudee Begum (Opposite Party), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Oomdutoonissa (Petitioner), *Respondent.*

Mr. Mun Mohun Ghose for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondent.

The Civil Court to which the charge of minors and their property is entrusted by Act XL. of 1858 is the Court of the Judge of the district.

Jackson, J.—THIS is an appeal against an order made by the Judge in the exercise of the discretion vested in him under Section 21, Act XL. of 1858, for removing a guardian previously appointed by the Court.

The care of the persons of all minors and the charge of their property is declared by that Act to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Civil Court, the Civil Court there meaning the Court of the Judge of the district. The Zillah Judge has, as it seems to me, peculiar facilities for ascertaining the fitness of persons who make application to him to be appointed guardians under the Act, and also the fitness and the conduct of persons who may have been appointed; and we should, therefore, be slow to interfere with a carefully-considered order of the Judge in such a matter. But apart from this, it appears to me that, in the case before us, no sufficient cause has been shown by the learned Counsel for the appellant to induce us to interfere with the exercise of the discretion vested in the Court below. I myself am very far from being satisfied from the

evidence that has been read that this lady was a proper person to have the custody of her child; and in respect of Oomda Begum also no ground has been made out so as to satisfy us that she ought not to be appointed as guardian.

I think, therefore, that the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Macpherson, J.—I concur in the proposed order.

The 15th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Notice—Resumption.

Case No. 1566 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 18th June 1870, modifying a decision of the Deputy Collector of Ranaghat, dated the 30th September 1869.

Deen Dyal Paramanick (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Maharajah Suttish Chunder Roy (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Romanath Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for Respondent.

Where a zemindar, after obtaining a decree declaring certain land to be invalid lakheraj appertaining to his zemindary, serves a notice upon the occupier to pay rent at the rates current in the neighbourhood, such notice does not make the claim one for arrears of rent at an enhanced rate, but is simply a requisition to come to terms.

Loch, J.—We see no ground for interfering with the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court. It is clear that this is not a suit to recover arrears of rent at an enhanced rate, for it does not appear that, up to the time of the present suit, the defendant had been paying rent at all to the plaintiff. The land held by the defendant was by a decree of Court declared to be invalid lakheraj appertaining to the zemindary of the plaintiff, and the plaintiff, having obtained this decree, served a notice upon the defendant to pay rent to him at the rates current in the neighbourhood. The fact of the service of notice does no contended by the pleader for the speci pellant, make this a suit for arrears of at an enhanced rate. It was simply quisition out of grace to the defendan possession to come to terms for the which has been declared to belong to plaintiff's estate.

It is also urged before us that the L Courts have decided the case withou quiring the attendance of certain wit summoned by the defendant; and tho proclamation was ordered to be issue Lower Court disposed of the case w waiting for their attendance. We fin doubt, that there was an order for is proclamation for the attendance of c parties, but the pleader for the speci pellant is unable to show us that he proper steps for the issue of that proc tion. Under these circumstances, we that this ground is not valid.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 16th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiati Chief Justice.*

Court Fees Act—Old Stamp Law (XXV 1867)—Stamps—Valuation.

Case No. 56 of 1871.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dat 21st September 1870.

Mussamut Bhugobutty Kooer and oth (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Mussamut Kustooree Kooer (Plaintif *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellants.

No one for Respondent.

Stamp-duty upon an appeal filed after the Fees Act came into operation can only be levi cording to the provisions of that Act, even thou original suit was valued on the principles laid do Act XXVI. of 1867.

Note by the Deputy Registrar.— original suit was valued at Rupees 21, the market-value of the property in dis

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rovided in Act XXVI. of 1867 (Note A, cle 11, Schedule B), it having been insti- d while that law was in force.

he defendants now appeal from the decree at suit, and claim to value their appeal r the new law, the Court Fees Act tion 7, Clause 5, Note A), at Rupees -10 annas and 8 pies, or ten times the al revenue payable to Government.

does not appear from the petition of al how *ten times* the annual revenue ated there) is made out to amount to es 5,103-10 annas and 8 pies, while the et-value was estimated at Rupees 21,000.

at, however, is a matter of secondary deration, and may probably be easily ained. The point I desire to refer more icularly for the orders of the Court, and ch appears to me of some considerable ortance, as upon it depends the deter- ation of the fee leviable on the memoran- of appeal, and, as a consequence also, e sufficiency or otherwise of the stamp which the memorandum is engrossed, er the appellant is at liberty to alter ppeal the value of the property in te as estimated and fixed in the origi- it.

though there is nothing in the new law st such an alteration being allowed, but e contrary it would seem to be the al result of an altered method of estima- the value of property, and to be there- navoidable, still, taking an appeal as part entire litigation, a law could hardly ssumed as intended to operate in such y as to affect the unity and integrity of t, by allowing a change of its valuation later stage, that of appeal.

Opinion of the Chief Justice.—I think there o doubt but that stamp-duty can only be d according to the provision of the Court Act.

The 16th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Pleading one's own fraud.

Case No. 776 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Nuddea, dated the 28th January 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Kooshtea, dated the 30th October 1868.

Koylash Chunder Mitter (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Dhun Monee Dossia (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Grija Sunker Mojoomdar for Appellant.

Baboo Grish Chunder Mookerjee for Respondent.

A person who has deliberately executed a deed by which his own property is bound is not at liberty to set up as a plea for evading obligation that he did so for the purpose of defrauding other people, but is bound by such deed.

Norman, C. J.—This is a suit to establish the plaintiff's title under a mourosee pottah granted by one Ohilla Monee, who was one of the widows of Kristo Dhun Bose, to his (plaintiff's) mother, Bhyrubee Dassee, which was confirmed by the father of the defendant, Dwarkanath Moonshee, by a certain likhun or writing of confirmation which was given in the year 1266. The plaintiff also sues for possession of the property granted by that mourosee pottah to his mother Bhyrubee Dassee.

The first Court raised two issues:—

First.—Whether the suit was barred by limitation, and

Secondly.—Whether the execution of the confirmatory letter was merely a benamee transaction, and whether the defendant can plead it at this stage.

It appears, therefore, to have been admitted by the parties at that time that this

likhun, or deed of confirmation, was actually written by the father of the defendant at the time it bears date; and we may add that the Subordinate Judge comes to the same conclusion on the facts before him.

The first Court found both issues in favor of the plaintiff, and made a decree declaring the plaintiff entitled to possession and to a declaration that his title under the mourosee pottah should be confirmed.

That decision was reversed on appeal by the Subordinate Judge, Baboo Juggobundoo Banerjee, in a judgment which is not very careful or satisfactory. He first assumes that the plaintiff was not in possession within 12 years before suit. That decision appears to have been mainly based upon a complete mistake as to a decision dated the 20th November 1861, by which the plaintiff obtained a decree for rent against his tenant Alum Mundul. The Subordinate Judge supposes erroneously that that case was decided *against* the plaintiff; whereas, so far from that being the case, the plaintiff obtained a decree.

He also relies upon the fact that the defendant is now in possession. Of that there is very little doubt, because the plaintiff appears to have been ousted by a decree on the 24th of July 1867, by which the plaintiff's suit for arrears of rent was dismissed. But that decree affords very little evidence as to what was the state of possession prior to its date.

The substantial defence arises upon the other point. Nobin Chunder Moonshee and Gour Gobind Moonshee purchased the entire 4½ annas of the turuff belonging to the two widows of Kristo Dhun Bose, Ohilla Monee and Ram Monee, in execution of a decree of a Civil Court in Bhadur 1263.

Nobin Chunder Moonshee gave to the plaintiff a writing confirming the mourosee pottah of Ohilla Monee in Bysack 1266. Gour Gobind Moonshee's name also appeared as having executed that confirmatory writing. Kaminee, who was the widow of Gour Gobind, brought a suit against the now plaintiff to set aside the mourosee pottah, so far as it related to the share of her husband in the property which belonged to Ohilla Monee.

That suit resulted in a decree in her favor, which established that Gour Gobind Moonshee had not executed the confirmatory likhun.

In that suit the defendant's father, N Chunder Moonshee, and in another suit defendant himself, have admitted that confirmatory likhun of Bysack 1266 executed by Nobin Chunder Moonshee, father of the defendant.

The Subordinate Judge has disreg the admissions of Nobin Chunder the defendant. He says that the having been executed while the Punchanun Bose (the reversionary Ohilla Moonee and Ram Monee) was ing, was executed with a "bad motive "therefore the likhun cannot be h "a Court of justice as a real do "evidence, even if it was actually ex "by the party granting it."

It appears to us, however, that a who has deliberately executed a do which his own property is bound is liberty to set up that he did so for the pose of defrauding other people. bound by the deed to which he has p hand.

The Subordinate Judge does not co any distinct finding as to what the was, but seems to have some *suspicio* garding the *bona fides* of the likhun, therefore rejects it. But suspicion i enough to warrant a Judge in refusi act upon proved and admitted facts. pears to us that the Subordinate Judg without good or sufficient reason, re the decision of the first Court, which be restored and affirmed with all costs.

The 16th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ain *Judges.*

Occupancy-rights—Transfer.

Case No. 1978 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision past the Subordinate Judge of Tipp dated the 15th July 1870, affirm decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of District, dated the 25th September 18

Doorga Pershad Misser and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Brindabun Sookul (Plaintiff), *Respondent*

Baboos Doorga Mohun Doss and *Rash Beharee Ghose* for Appellants.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Respondent.

Where a proprietor grants permission to a party to build upon and occupy a portion of his land, without any reservation of right to oust him at will or limitation of the grant to him individually, the permission must be construed in the ordinary way; and if the occupation continues for a very long period, the occupant cannot be turned out at a moment's notice, or denied the power of transferring his right, though he may be sued for rent.

Ainslie, J.—In execution of a decree against one Seetaram Dobay, certain land, with the mud houses built thereon, was sold and purchased by the defendant in the present suit. It was then described as the ancestral lakheraj land of the judgment-debtor. The plaintiff has brought this suit to establish his title to the land.

It has been found by the Courts below that the land was not the lakheraj of Seetaram Dobay, but formed a portion of the property belonging to the plaintiff. The claim includes two plots of land, but we have now to deal only with the first plot.

The Moonsiff held that, as Seetaram Dobay had been in occupation of this land by living thereon for a period of something like 40 years, the plaintiff was not entitled to eject the purchaser, but could only take rent from him. The Subordinate Judge reversed that finding of the Moonsiff, and held that the plaintiff was entitled to take possession of the land itself.

The question which we have to consider is whether the judgment of the Moonsiff or the judgment of the Subordinate Judge on this point is the correct one. It appears to us that this question turns upon the consideration whether Seetaram Dobay himself was liable to be dispossessed at the will of the plaintiff; and if not, whether his right to occupy the land with the buildings was not a right which had become transferable. A case has been cited by the appellant to be found in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 496, in which the late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes Peacock, has expressed an opinion which seems to us to bear directly upon this case. He says: "Independently of this, speaking "for myself, I should say that, if one man "grants a tenure to another for the purpose "of living upon the land, that tenure, in the "absence of any evidence to the contrary, "would be assignable. I know of no law "which prohibits a man who gets land for "the purpose of building, from assigning "his interest in it to another."

It is said by the respondent that this is not a case in which the plaintiff created a tenure in favor of Seetaram in order that he might live upon the land, but that he merely gave him permission to occupy a certain space within the *bassabaree*, *i. e.*, within the compound of his own house. No doubt, it is found by the Moonsiff that the house erected by Seetaram immediately adjoins the house of the plaintiff. But it does not follow that the land upon which it stands is a part of what may be called the compound of the plaintiff's house. Although the land in suit may be adjoining that occupied by plaintiff, the occupation of it by Seetaram or any one else need not necessarily interfere with the occupation by the plaintiff of his own house and of the land attached to it. There is nothing to show that it does so.

It is said that the plaintiff allowed other persons to build in the same way in which he allowed Seetaram to do so, and that, when they vacated their houses, he again took possession of the land. Some evidence to this fact has been read. But there is no evidence put forward to show that in any one instance the holder of any such land has attempted to assign his right to others, and has been interfered with by the plaintiff, and failed in carrying out such assignment; nor do we know under what circumstances the houses were vacated. The Subordinate Judge has not found, and apparently there is nothing to show, that the permission granted by plaintiff to Seetaram was given with any reservation of right to oust him at will, or was limited to him individually; and therefore we think that it must be taken to have been a permission to build and occupy in the ordinary way; and that this occupation having continued for a very long period of time, it is impossible to suppose that the plaintiff had any power to turn Seetaram out at a moment's notice, or that Seetaram had not power to transfer his right to any other party.

The appeal accordingly is decreed, the decision of the Subordinate Judge is reversed, and that of the Moonsiff is restored and affirmed.

The appellant will have his costs in this Court and the Lower Appellate Court.

Jackson, J.—I quite agree with Mr. Justice Ainslie. No doubt, it is very difficult to define the rights of parties in cases of this sort, where there is no written document but a mere permission to occupy, and where occupation has been unaccompanied by any payment of rent. Every thing must depend upon the circumstances of the case. No doubt, allowing a servant to occupy a portion of the dwelling house by erecting a temporary building thereon would confer upon him no tenant right whatever: probably even allowing a relation to build any temporary building within a portion of the premises would confer upon him no tenant right whatever. But the present case appears to me quite distinct from all such cases. It is not the case, as I understand it, of a person being merely allowed to occupy a piece of land in the defendant's compound. It was not given to him for any temporary purpose; he has been in possession about 40 years; he has built upon it; he has planted trees upon it; and in fact he has exercised all the usual rights of an occupier upon the land. It seems to me, therefore, that his holding is not a temporary holding. I think it was rightly put in this case that, if the plaintiff could not have turned out Seetaram Dobay, he cannot turn out the present defendant. But I am by no means satisfied that, under the circumstances, the plaintiff could have ejected Seetaram Dobay. I think the first Court was quite right in saying that the plaintiff's proper course was to sue for rent. I would, therefore, set aside the Appellate Court's decision, and restore that of the first Court.

The respondent will pay the costs of this and the Lower Appellate Court.

The 16th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Finding—Possession.

Case No. 2008 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Tipperah, dated the 20th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 12th March 1869.

Shaikh Ashruf and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Mahomed Hossein and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Appellants.

Baboos Nuleet Chunder Sein and *Okhil Chunder Sein* for Respondents.

In a suit to recover the value of trees grown on disputed jungle land, which one party had cut down, but the other had carried away, plaintiffs obtained a decree on the ground that, as they had cut the trees, they were entitled to their value until a final decision was passed in the Civil Court with regard to the trial to the land.

HELD that that was not a finding that the successful party was in possession.

Jackson, J.—WE think that this case must be remanded to the Subordinate Judge of Tipperah with directions to him that he will re-consider the case, and pass a fresh decision upon it. The plaintiffs preferred this suit to recover possession of a small portion of jungle land which the plaintiffs alleged belonged to their talook, and which was situated on the boundary of their talook and of that of the defendants. It appears that there was a former litigation regarding some trees which stood upon this land, and which the defendant cut down, but the plaintiffs removed them. The defendant thereupon brought a suit for the value of those trees, and obtained a decree. The plaintiffs, therefore, now bring the present suit, alleging that the result of those proceedings was to dispossess them from the land upon which those trees stood, and they accordingly sue to recover possession.

The defendant, on the other hand, denies the plaintiff's title, pleads limitation, and alleges that the land is situated within his talook.

The first Court, in deciding the question of limitation, pointed out that "the defendant had admitted in his deposition that "he never, on any other occasion, cu he "trees of the disputed land, or sold the s ne. "The land in dispute is occupied by ju le. "In his deposition the defendant could not "state any other act indicating his ow er-"ship." The first Court upon this ld that the plea of limitation raised by he defendant was futile, and that the caus of action must be held to have arisen f m the time when the defendant sold the es

Ram Churn. and the latter cut them n.

he first Court also went on to try the tion of title, and came to an opinion vor of the plaintiff.

e defendant appealed to the Subordi- Judge. The Subordinate Judge, in g the facts of the case, nowhere ions the decision to which the Moon- as arrived, either on the point of limi- n or upon the merits. He treats the almost as if it was an original suit ted in his Court, instead of an appeal the decision of another Court. He puts the issues in the case, not the points which the appeal was preferred to him. oes not decide whether this land was -land, as the first Court had held it, and r the plaintiff's cause of action arose at me the first Court had held it to have But he goes at once to the plaintiff's nce, and he rejects in the first place four witnesses, evidently upon no other than that the witnesses came from ent villages. Why witnesses' evidence d be rejected because they came from ent villages, it is very difficult to un- nd. It is very possible that the in- nts of an adjoining village may be to give evidence as to what was the ary, and more especially whether the iff or the defendant had been in the of making use of the trees growing the land; and the witnesses, in fact, ve evidence. It is for the Appellate to consider that evidence, and to give nion upon it.

e evidence of the witness Kalla Ga- s rejected by the Subordinate Judge, e the fact that he measured the land part of the plaintiff does not prove he land belonged to the plaintiff. It y possible that that is not final evi- upon the point, but it is some evi- of an act of ownership upon the land; if it is the fact that Kalla Gazee went e part of the plaintiff to measure the that fact should be taken into consi- on, more especially when the defend- himself states that he exercised no of ownership upon this land until he e trees.

he Subordinate Judge is equally wrong he alludes to the former decision was passed by the Moonsiff regard- the cutting and carrying away the trees. The Moonsiff did not, as the Subordinate Judge says, on that occasion find that the defendants were in possession of the land; but as the defendants cut the trees, consequently they were held entitled to the value of them until the final decision with regard to the title was passed in the Civil Court. That was no finding whatever that the defendants were in possession.

The whole case seems to have been tried in a very summary manner by the Subordinate Judge. We think the case must go back to him, in order that he may fully consider the evidence of the witnesses who came from different villages, as well as the other evidence produced by the plaintiff and that produced by the defendant, that he may finally determine when the cause of action arose, and re-decide the question both on the point of limitation and also on the merits.

Costs to follow the result.

The 17th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Mortgaged land—Section 5, Act VIII., 1859.

In the Matter of

Ram Lall Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Petitioner,*

versus

Chittro Coomaree and another (Defendants), *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Petitioner.

No one for Opposite Party.

A suit to have certain lands declared liable for the satisfaction of an instalment-bond is substantially a suit for an interest in land, and as such cognizable by the Courts within whose jurisdiction the property is situated, even though the cause of action has not arisen there, and the defendants reside elsewhere.

Kemp, J.—In this case the plaintiff, Ram Lall Mookerjee, sued the defendant for a sum of Rupees 8,435 due under a kistbundee, the main object of the suit being to have it declared that certain properties which were mortgaged in satisfaction of the instalment-bond were liable for that sum. In the plaint, the plaintiff states distinctly that the defendants do not reside within the jurisdiction of the Beerbhoom Court, and that the

cause of action, that is to say, the borrowing of the money, arose in another district; but the plaint states that, as the major portion of the mortgaged premises is situated in the Beerbhoom district, the case is cognizable by the Beerbhoom Court.

The Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, without giving any reasons why the suit should not be cognizable by his Court, inasmuch as the major portion of the mortgaged premises is situated within the jurisdiction of his Court, passes an order to the effect that, because the defendants do not reside within the limits of his jurisdiction, and the cause of action has not arisen within such limits, the plaint must be rejected and returned to the plaintiff; and the plaintiff now asks the Court to interfere and to direct the Subordinate Judge to receive the plaint.

Under Section 5, suits for land or other immoveable property are cognizable by the Court within whose jurisdiction the lands or property may be situated. Now, it appears to us that this is substantially a suit for an interest in land, as it is a suit to have certain lands declared liable for the satisfaction of the kistbundee executed by the defendants in favor of the plaintiff. We, therefore, think that the Subordinate Judge should have proceeded to entertain this plaint; and we accordingly return it to him with directions to receive it on his file, if endorsed on a proper stamp, and if there are no other objections to its admission.

The 17th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Ejectment—Pleas—Right of suit—Section 15, Act XIV., 1859.

Case No. 1732 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Backergunge, dated the 1st June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 26th July 1869.

Kumul Dutt and others (some of the Defendants), *Appellants*,

versus

Mohun Malla and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents*.

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Appell

No one for Respondents.

In a suit to recover possession of property which plaintiffs have been ousted by defendants have no title at all, the latter cannot set claim of a third party so as to defeat that plaintiffs, whose right, moreover, is not in affected by the fact of the suit not having been within the time limited by Section 15, Act of 1859.

Norman, C. J.—It appears that has been quite enough proved in this to entitle the plaintiff to a decree.

One Doya Ram, the holder of a tenure, died leaving certain persons were his heirs. After his death, the iffs were in possession of the tenure, ing as heirs of Doya Ram, rightly or ly it does not very clearly appear. they were put out by the defendants, have failed to prove that they had any at all. The result is that the plai title is preferable to that of the defend and that the defendants cannot set up somebody else other than the persons they ousted have or may have some so as to defeat the claim of the plaint be restored to possession as against The fact that the suit was not br within the time limited by Section 15, XIV. of 1859, does not in any way the plaintiff's right to a decree for po sion. In the present suit, if the defen could have shown a title, they have been at liberty to do so. In brought within the time limited by S 15, they could not have set up such if they had wrongfully ejected the plai

The appeal is dismissed.

The 17th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. Glover, *Judges*.

Stamp—Review.

Shahazada Fukeerooddeen Ahmed, *Petitioner*.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Petition

Where an applicant for review is not informed time of his application that his petition is insufficiently stamped, he cannot, at the time of hearing, be re permission to make up the proper valuation.

Kemp, J.—The application in this was within time, and the petitioner was required by the Court to furnish the ad

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al stamp requisite to make up the pro- valuation until the case come on for ing. At that time the petitioner offer- to furnish the additional stamp, and the t refused to permit him to do so. If petitioner had been informed that his cation was on a wrong stamp at the the application was made, he would had time either to file a petition on the er stamp, or there and then to make the difference. No opportunity having given to him to do so, and the Court having required him to make good the p at the proper time, we think that this case in which we ought to direct the r Court to receive from the petitioner proper amount of stamp, and to permit to apply for a review of the former ment.

The 17th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating hief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *udge.*

Irregularity—Section 104, Act X., 1859.

Case No. 1736 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Backergunge, dated the th May 1870, affirming a decision of Moonsiff of Lawkatee, dated the 9th bruary 1870.

Mahomed Ayenooddeen (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

kee Doss Chundo and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

aboos Bhugobutty Churn Ghose and *Oomesh Chunder Banerjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Respondents.

ant of clearness in the specification of the arrears ests for which a sale takes place, or in the mode ich the notice is published, is not an irregularity ting a sale if fraud is absent.

Norman, C. J.—We see no ground for tering with the judgment of the Lower ellate Court. It is quite plain that the Judge has found that there was no fraud in conducting the sale in this case, and there does not appear to us to be the slightest ground for imputing any fraud. Even if there was any irregularity in not specifying as clearly as the parties should have specified what was the amount of the arrears and costs for which the sale took place, or in the mode in which the notice of sale was published, it is provided by the 104th Section of Act X. of 1859 that such irregularity does not vitiate the sale. It would be very unfortunate if it were otherwise. As far as we can see, the special appellant has not sustained any injury by the supposed irregularity in the present case.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 18th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Section 14, Act III., 1857—Damages—Right of action.

In the Matter of

Nomaz Mollah, *Petitioner,*

versus

Lall Mohun Tagadgeer and others, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Khetturnath Bose for Petitioner.

No one for Opposite Party.

Where a person whose cattle have been illegally distrained fails to take advantage of the remedy provided by Section 14, Act III. of 1857, he is not thereby prohibited from bringing an action for damages in a Civil Court.

Loch, J.—We think that the view taken by the Judge of the Small Cause Court that a suit for damages will not lie in a case of this kind is not correct.

It is true that Section 14 of Act III. of 1857 gives a summary remedy to persons whose cattle have been illegally distrained; but it does not prohibit a person, who is unable from any circumstance to take

advantage of that remedy, from bringing an action for damages in a Civil Court. Under Section 14, a person may complain against a seizure within 10 days before a Magistrate, but many things may happen to prevent a person from complaining within that time; and if he fails to do so, we do not think that the law intended that he should be deprived of all remedy for the illegal act of the person carrying off his cattle.

In the present case the cattle were impounded; the plaintiff paid the usual fine for their release under the 6th Section: he did not apply to the Magistrate under Section 14, but brought an action for damages in the Civil Court against the defendant.

We think that such a suit will lie in the Civil Court; and we, therefore, set aside the order of the Judge of the Small Cause Court, and direct him to take up the case, and dispose of it in the usual way.

The 20th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble E. Jackson, *Judge*.

Admission—Clause 3, Section 66, Act XX. of 1866—Evidence.

Reference to the High Court by the Officiating Judge of Backergunge, dated the 8th December 1870.

Mahomed Haneef Meajee and others (Defendants), *Appellants*,

versus

Mozhur Ali (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

No one for Appellants.

Baboo Woomesh Chunder Banerjee for Respondent.

An admission before a Registrar of the receipt of purchase-money attested by his endorsement, as required by Clause 3, Section 66, Act XX. of 1866, though evidence of the strongest and most reliable description, ought not to be treated as conclusive. In the face of such admission, however, the party seeking to get out of its effect must make out his case by very clear evidence.

Case.—PLAINTIFF sold his share of ryotee jote to the defendants for Rs. 100, executed a deed of sale on the 12th Fa 1276. The document recites that the sideration-money "passed from ha hand," and it was attested by five nesses. It was registered before the M siff of Dowlutkhan (temporarily in c of the Sub-Registrar's Office) on the February 1870, and the Registering O endorsed upon the document, as requi Act XX., 1866, Section 66, Clause "the executant (plaintiff) admitted "of consideration as stated in the deed

Plaintiff now asserts that he did n ceive the consideration, and sues to re $\frac{5}{6}$ths of it, having unnecessarily, I relinquished $\frac{1}{6}$th of the claim on acco the minority of one of the vendees could, nothing else withstanding, ha covered the whole sum from the vendees.

Two persons have been examine plaintiff out of the five attesting wit to the deed. They both state that for fo sake 10 rupees passed between the pl and Haneeff Mahomed, one of the ven but that the plaintiff actually received session of no part of the consideration-m though he admitted that he had. Plai other witnesses similarly stated that h mitted to them receipt of the consider money, but that they were aware that not been paid. Plaintiff's own vers that he was at the time an inmate of H Mahomed's house, and allowed him to the purchase-money, instead of paying him (plaintiff).

The remaining three witnesses to the have been examined by the defendant, their evidence does not establish the ment of the consideration-money to pla The first states that Rs. 180 passed hand to hand, but that plaintiff was paid Rs. 50 at the time. The second that Rs. 100 was paid at the time: and third that Rs. 60 was paid at the time.

As a matter of fact, I find in concur with the Moonsiff that the plaintiff did no ceive any portion of the consideration-mo But I am of opinion that he is not entitle come into Court, and that his case sh not have been entertained. I know evidence is admissible to prove that mo was not actually received, although it be stated in the written instrument sale that it has been received: but I am

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e that, when a person has orally admitted ipt of the money, as stated in the deed re the Registrar, and thus made a state- which, if not true, renders him liable ven years' imprisonment under Sec- 1 of the Registration Act, evidence is sible from the person who made the ent, or on his behalf, to prove that it not true. I am, therefore, of opinion e plaintiff is bound by the admission before the registering officer, and ed under his hand as required by law; at his claim should, therefore, be dis- d, and this appeal decreed with costs; s the point is one of importance as ting the effect of an admission before Registrar, I solicit the favor of an n from the High Court under Sec- 8, Act XXIII., 1861. The appeal is d with costs contingent upon such n. Reference is made at the instance intiff's) respondent's pleader.

e judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

rman, C. J.—We think that the ad- n of the receipt of the purchase-money e the Registrar ought *not* to be treated *clusive.* The certificate is *primâ-facie* nce of the facts therein mentioned Section 68, and amongst other things fact of payment of the consideration- , if it contains a mention that such nt has been admitted in the presence Registrar. But it might be shown ch admission had been procured by or misrepresentation; that it was part arrangement that the money taken as nt should remain for a time in the of the purchasers at interest, or be d by them in a particular way.

in the face of a formal admission of nt made before the Registrar, which, ily speaking, is evidence of the strong- d most reliable description, a party g to get out of the effect of the ad- n should make out his case by *very* evidence indeed.

would venture to suggest that the in this reference seems to treat the of payment too much as if it were a r to be proved by the defendant, rather that non-payment is a matter only to tablished by the clearest proof by one seeks to avoid the fact of a solemn sion deliberately made by him.

The 20th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble E. Jackson, *Judge.*

New trial—Notice—Section 21, Act XI. of 1865.

Reference to the High Court by the Judge of the Small Cause Court at Sealdah, dated the 8th November 1870.

Louisa Vaughan, *Petitioner,*

versus

Lall Chand Ghose and others, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Tarucknath Sein for Petitioner.

No one for Opposite Party.

A judgment-debtor in a Small Cause Court, on the day (28th July) of her arrest in execution of an *ex-parte* decree, deposited the amount claimed, and gave notice under Section 21, Act XI. of 1865, that on the next day of the sitting of the Court she would file her grounds for a new trial. The Court next sat on the 1st August, and she filed her application on the 2nd.

HELD that the Judge of the Small Cause Court was right in proceeding to hear the application, instead of going through the formality of telling her to first give notice and apply again.

Case.—IN suit No. 2326 of 1867, Lall Chand Ghose and Shama Churn Ghose sued Mrs. S. V. Brown for 105 rupees 6 annas 9 pie on account of goods sold and delivered, and on 5th February 1868 obtained a verdict against the defendant. Subsequently, in execution against the said S. V. Brown, the petitioner, being arrested on 28th July 1870, deposited the amount for which execution was levied, and on that date gave notice to the Court under Section 21, Act XI. of 1865 "that on the "next day of the sitting of the Court she "would file her grounds of new trial." This notice was indispensable in reference to the High Court's Ruling of 5th June 1869, 12 Weekly Reporter, Civil Rulings, page 17. On the 2nd of August the peti-

tioner filed an application for a new trial, setting forth the grounds on which she desired one.

It is contended on the opposite side that the petitioner is out of time, inasmuch as the next sitting of the Court at Sealdah was on the 1st of August, and the application for a new trial was filed on the 2nd idem. If the petitioner be considered a party to the suit, the contention is valid, as under the High Court's Ruling of 8th June 1870 the application for a new trial must in all cases be made at the next sitting of the Court. Such, however, is not the case. If the names* used were *idem sonans* with the true ones, the misnomer would have been immaterial, as it is the duty of the party sued by a wrong name not to allow judgment to go against him without attempting to rectify the mistake; but in the present case the misdescription is material in reference to Section 26 of the Code of Civil Procedure—there being a substantial difference between the names S. V. Brown and Vaughan, and it is not alleged that the name and description were not within the knowledge of the party pleading. The descriptive error is not only in the Christian name, but also in the surname. The Christian name ought always to be perfect, and the English Law is not so precise as to surnames as it is of Christian names, and in the absence of the body the identity could not be known. The Court, therefore, holds that Louisa Vaughan was not legally bound to answer to a summons issued in the name of S. V. Brown. A name was invented to make a distinction between person and person, and the petitioner was not so described so as to fix the identity of both names in one person. It is not contended that the petitioner's name by reputation was S. V. Brown, or that she in fraud had transactions under a feigned name. On the contrary, the decree-holder declares her name to be "Beebee Ban." The Court's view of the intent of Rule 5 of the Rules of Practice of Small Cause Courts can afford the decree-holder no vantage ground, 1st, because the petitioner was not commonly known as S. V. Brown; 2nd, the misnomer is only immaterial in the presence of the person, and must be pleaded at the time of trial by party himself who is misnomered, the record can be corrected. The tioner is *dehors* the scope of the re and cannot be affected by any rules ap ble to parties within it, as the first p of Section 21, Act XI. of 1865, rel an *ex-parte* decree against a defenda the above reasons, the Court holds t petitioner is entitled to a hearing, a the original case should be re-opened. judgment of the Court in case No. 1 1867 is hereby set aside; and as this involves a construction on Rule 5 Rules of Practice for Courts of Small C and as there is no precedent of the Court bearing on the subject, the order is made contingent upon the o of the Hon'ble the High Court.

The Court held its sittings at Howrah on 29th and 30th of July—the 31st was a Sunday.

* *i. e.*, the surname and the initials or contraction used for the Christian name.

† *Præsentia corporis tollit errorem nominis.*

The judgment of the High Court *delivered as follows by—*

Norman, C. J.—I think it clear petitioner ought to be heard. Sect allows 30 days after process for enf the decree has been executed within notice of an intention to apply to the to set aside an *ex-parte* decree may be The petitioner came on the 28th of the day when she was arrested, and sh notice of an intention to apply in th Court day, which turned out to be the day following, the 1st of August. H plication was, in fact, made on the Tu the 2nd. I think the Judge was clearly in proceeding to hear the application, in of going through the formality of her to first give notice and apply Costs of this reference to be costs in cause for the successful party.

Jackson, J.—I agree.

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The 6th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

ee-holder—Assignee—Section 208, Civil Procedure Code.

Case No. 421 of 1870.

llaneous *Appeal from an order pass- by the Officiating Judge of East rdwan, dated the 2nd August 1870, rming an order of the Subordinate ge of that District, dated the 18th ember 1869.*

hama Puddo Dutt (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

in Chunder Bose (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

oo Rash Beharee Ghose for Appellant.

C. Gregory and *Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose* for Respondent.

rty to a suit can enforce any decree he may a matter of right; but an assignee of such can only do so after obtaining the Court's ion, which depends entirely on the Court's dis- An assignee, therefore, is not in the same as the original decree-holder, and is not entitled the same privileges.

ver, J.—THE question in this appeal ether an order passed under Section the Civil Procedure Code is appeal-

e decree-holder assigned by sale his e to Shama Puddo Dutt, and applied re the purchaser's name substituted s own. The Subordinate Judge re- this, but allowed the purchaser's name associated with his vendor's as joint e-holder.

e assignee appealed against this order e District Judge, who, under the rity of Megh Narain Singh and others s Radha Pershad Singh* (4 Bengal Reports, p. 200), decided that no appeal Shama Puddo Dutt now appeals speci- to this Court.

here is, no doubt, a conflict of decisions the point. In Huro Lall Doss *versus* awut Ali, 8 Weekly Reporter, p. 197, it is laid down that the words "party to a suit" in Section 11, Act XXIII. of 1861, include assignees, and that a purchaser would consequently have the right of appeal.

And much the same principle was decided in Bishtoo Narain Banerjee *versus* Gunga Narain Biswas, 11 Weekly Reporter, p. 368.

But in support of the Judge's opinion, there is not only the case he refers to, but the decision of the Full Bench in the case of Sheikh Wahid Ali *versus* Mussamut Jamai, 11 Weekly Reporter, F. B., p. 1, where it was held that the term "parties to the suit" in Section 11, Act XXIII. of 1861, refers only to those who are parties in their own right, and not to those who are parties merely in their representative character.

And if the words of the law are to be construed literally, they cannot be made to include a person who had nothing whatever to do with the suit, and only obtained an interest after the decree had been passed. The words of the Act seem, moreover, to make a great distinction between the two. A party to a suit can enforce any decree he may get as a matter of right; an assignee of such decree can only do so after obtaining the Court's permission—a permission which depends entirely on the Court's discretion. The Court "may grant the application," "if it think proper"—(Section 208, Code of Civil Procedure). An assignee, therefore, is not in the same position as an original decree-holder, and may reasonably be held not to have the same privileges.

The judgment of the late Chief Justice in the Full Bench case above quoted, and in which the majority of the Judges concurred, goes very fully into the question of "parties to the suit," and decides that "the Legis- "lature intended only parties in their own "right, and not parties in a representative "character." The facts of the case before the Full Bench were, no doubt, different from those of the case now under consideration, but the reasoning on which the decision was based applies equally to both. I conceive, therefore, that we ought to follow the decision of the Full Bench, notwithstanding the contrary opinion expressed by a Division Bench in Bishtoo Narain Banerjee *versus* Gunga Narain Biswas—the result being that this appeal is dismissed with costs.

Kemp, J.—I am of the same opinion.

* 13 W. R., p. 224.

The 20th March 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble E. Jackson, *Judge*.

Bond—Interest.

Reference to the High Court by the Judge of the Small Cause Court at Hooghly, dated the 17th November 1870.

Mirza Mahomed Hossein *alias* Mirza Nowab, *Plaintiff*,

versus

Shahazadah Tuqueerooddeen Saheb, *Defendant*.

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Plaintiff.

No one for Defendant.

When the rate of interest stipulated for in a bond is exorbitant, and there is no express understanding that the interest is to continue at the same rate after the expiration of the period fixed for re-payment, a Court need not assume that the parties are bound by contract to that rate after such period.

Case.—THE plaintiff sues the defendant for the recovery of Rupees 200, being only the principal amount on a registered bond, dated 1st July 1868, and payable in September of the same year, and lays no claim for interest which, it is alleged, has been paid to him in full at the rate of 5 per cent. or Rupees 10 per month, as shown to have been duly endorsed on the back of the bond.

The defendant appeared by his pleader, admitted execution of the bond and receipt of consideration-money, but pleaded payment of the whole amount of principal and interest. He says that he paid to the plaintiff, from time to time, a certain sum of money which aggregated to Rupees 250, and which he has every reason to believe has satisfied the loan with interest in full; that he is willing to pay any balance which, by calculation, will be found by the Court to be still due by him; and that it is not reasonable and just that the whole amount paid by him should be liquidated in payment of interest alone, as it is not binding on him by any covenant in the bond that, on default of payment of the loan with interest at the due date, he will be liable to pay interest at the stipulated rate of 5 per cent. per month up to the date of payment of the debt.

The point for determination which arises in this case, therefore, is—

Whether the plaintiff is entitled to re interest at the stipulated rate of 5 per per month for the whole period fro date of the bond up to the time of pa of the loan, or only 12 per cent. i should be allowed from the due date o ment till the date of action, the sti rate of interest in the bond being a up to due date.

The plaintiff admits that he has re from the defendant the sum of Rupee but argues that the same has been to payment of interest at Rupees month as stipulated in the bond, a the admission of the defendant to the whole period interest at that implied from the fact of the several e ments of payment on the back of the being for interest alone.

From a perusal of the bond itself, pears that the debt was recover September 1868 with interest at 5 per per mensem, and that there was no stipulation, on default of payment, to p terest at the prescribed rate up to th of liquidation of the whole debt. absence of such an agreement in the b am of opinion that the plaintiff cannot interest at the stipulated rate of 5 per from the due date up to the date of the plaintiff having been at liberty mand payment at any time after due the deed, as prescribed in the High C decision of the 21st April 1862, Sa Nath Roy *versus* Banee Madhub Mu *vide* Sutherland's Small Cause Court ences, page 19.

As to the endorsements of payme the back of the bond, it is admitted plaintiff himself that they were not by the handwriting of the defendant: the argument set forth by the plain respect to the liability of the defend pay interest at the fixed rate up to the of action is of no weight.

The plaintiff's pleader urges further the decision of the High Court allud above can have no bearing upon a qu of this nature, as the ruling cited has ence to an action for both principal interest, this case being for principal and that he can show subsequent ad decisions of the High Court in support plea; but he entirely failed to submit my inspection any such rulings.

On a calculation of the principal an terest at the rate of 5 per cent. up to

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of payment, and thereafter at 12 per t. up to the date of action, and deducting from the several payments made by the ndant, it appears that the sum of Rupees o is the amount still due by the defend- I would, therefore, give the plaintiff ree for Rupees 4-2-0 only with costs in rtion, *viz.*, Rupees 2-1-4, in all Rupees 4, contingent on the decision of the Court.

The judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

rman, C. J.—It appears to us that the on of the Judge of the Small Cause is correct. Where by a bond a sum of y is made payable on a particular day interest at a certain rate, no doubt, if money is not paid on the day named, it generally be taken that the parties con- ate that the rate of interest stipulated e bond will continue to be paid.

t no invariable rule can be laid down e subject. Where it appears from in- ements on the bond in the handwriting e obligor of the bond that he has nued to pay interest at the rate stipu- on the bond after it has fallen due, that strong circumstance to show that both s understand that the debt is to conti- t the rate stipulated in the bond.

en the rate of interest on the bond is itant, and there is no express under- ing that interest is to continue at the rate after the expiration of the period oned for re-payment in the bond, we t think that a Judge must necessarily e that the parties are bound by any ct that interest should continue to be t that rate after the time mentioned in ond. In the present case, the bond interest at 5 per cent. per mensem or 60 ent. per annum.

ere are no indorsements of interest in andwriting of the obligor to show that greed to pay interest at the same rate the due date of the bond. The Judge, the provisions of Act XXXII. of 1839, allowed interest at 60 per cent. to the stipulated in the bond, and 12 per cent. the date when the bond became due decree. In allowing interest by way of ages at that rate, we think that the e has probably done what is just and t under all the circumstances.

The 20th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Judgment-debtor's representative—Liability—Accounts.

Cases Nos. 296 and 443 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeals from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of Dacca, dated the 29th June 1870.

Aseemoonnissa (Claimant), *Appellant,*

versus

Ameeroonnissa Khatoon (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Lulèet Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

Baboo Sreenath Banerjee for Respondent.

When a party is proceeded against as the representative of a deceased judgment-debtor, and it is proved that property which belonged to the deceased judgment-debtor has come into his hands, it lies upon him to account for such property and to include in his account mesne-profits whether accruing in the shape of rents or of interest.

Macpherson, J.—It appears to me that we need not call upon the respondent in these two cases which, in fact, arise out of, and form part of, one application for execution of a decree. If the matter had stood as it did at the time when the appeal No. 296 was filed, no doubt appellant would have been entitled to relief; for the order of the Subordinate Judge is bad. But in the proceedings which subsequently took place, the error which was originally committed has been rectified, and the appellant's pleader quite failed to show that any substantial error has been committed. When a party is proceeded against as being the representative of a deceased judgment-debtor, and when it is proved that property which belonged to the deceased judgment-debtor has come into his hands, it lies upon the person against whom execution is so sought to account for all the property of the deceased judgment-debtor which has come into his hands. And, in so accounting, mesne-profits —whether they have accrued in the shape of rents collected, or interest on moneys which may have come to him from the deceased's estate—must be brought into the account. In the present instance, the decree-holders who applied for execution showed that cer-

tain sums accruing from the property of the deceased from time to time reached the hands of the judgment-debtor; and the judgment-debtor did not contradict this part of the case made out by the execution-creditor, or account in any way for the moneys so received. Under those circumstances, the Subordinate Judge was justified in declaring that the appellant was liable to make good the amount of the original decree to the extent of the assets which he found had come to her hands, and had not been accounted for by her, *i. e.*, Rupees 4,700. The execution will proceed in accordance with this declaration; and the former order, which is the subject of the appeal No. 296, will be set aside.

As the appellant did in the appeal No. 296 have a good case, we think, although we affirm the final order made by the Subordinate Judge, we ought to allow no costs in either of these appeals.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 20th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Confirmation of possession—Onus probandi—Form of plaint—Issues.

Case No. 1735 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Tipperah, dated the 19th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Comillah, dated the 23rd November 1869.

Moulvie Abdoollah (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Shaha Mujeesooddeen *alias* Peeroo Meeah (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Dass and *Sreenath Dass* for Respondent.

HELD (Mookerjee, J., dissentiente) that the rule that in suits for confirmation of possession by adjudication of title the plaintiff is bound to prove that he was in possession at the time he preferred the suit, is not so inflexible a rule that it cannot be departed from; as, for example, where plaintiff sues for confirmation of possession, and proves that he was in possession for many years and until within a few months of the institution of the suit, he should not be required to bring a fresh suit, merely changing the prayer for confirmation of possession into one for recovery of possession.

Matters in dispute should be ascertained, not only from the plaint and answer, but also at the hearing of the suit; and any indistinctness in the form of the plaint does not require that a decision come to upon issues fixed in the Lower Court between the parties should be set aside.

Jackson, J.—I REGRET to be obliged to differ from my learned colleague, but I take an altogether different view of this case from that which he takes. He considers that, as the plaintiff has brought this suit for confirmation of possession and for declaration of his title, he is bound to show that, at the time he preferred this suit, he was in possession, and he is bound to prove the distinct title which he set up. I freely admit that in most suits for confirmation of possession this is the rule. I am not prepared to hold that it is such an inflexible rule that it cannot be departed from, and that, when a plaintiff can show that he was in possession for twenty years previous to the suit, until within two or three months of the institution of the suit, his claim must be thrown out, and he must be required to bring a second suit. This appears to me to be the state of facts in this case. The plaintiff's allegation amounts to this: that of the lakheraj property which stands in the name of Shaikh Ismail and his father before him have, under a kind of gift from Shah Hamidooddeen and Haker, been in possession for a long series of years to the extent of 10 annas; the defendants own the remaining 6-annas share; that in that lakheraj estate there was a tenant named Alla Buksh, who held a tenure comprising 1-0-2-2 krants of land; that the defendants sued him for the rent of the whole 16-annas share, and obtained a decree both in the Moonsiff's and the Appellate Court, notwithstanding the plaintiff's objections and the statement of the tenant that the plaintiff was the holder of the 10-annas share; that this was a wrong decree, and the plaintiff, therefore, asks that his possession of his 10-annas share of the estate may be confirmed, and his title declared to it. In the course of the argument it was stated to us that the tenant Alla Buksh had been ejected from his tenure by the defendant two or three months before this suit was preferred.

I understand that my colleague would hold that the plaintiff was, on his own showing, out of possession of any share of the land

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ute ever since the year 1272. The suit ent was for the years 1272 and 1273. not quite clear on what date it was ted, but it was decided in favor e defendant on the 19th March 1867, that decision was confirmed on appeal e 17th August 1868. Sometime after the tenant Allah Buksh was ejected, the plaintiff then instituted this suit e 17th May 1869. I think it would great hardship on the plaintiff to dis- his present suit and to require him to a fresh suit, merely adding the words e was dispossessed when the tenant was d, and changing the prayer for confir- n of possession into one for recovery of sion. It seems to me that, if the plaint- tatement in his plaint is proved, he be entitled to succeed. He nowhere plaint states that he was in possession his suit was instituted. His prayer with the cause of action alleged by him nts, I think, to a request that the ssion which he had previously held up e time when the rent-suit was decided st him should be confirmed. Both the r Courts have taken this view of the and independent of my own opinion that a correct view, I think it is too late this Court to interfere on special l.

e law lays down that the matters which dispute shall be ascertained, not only the plaint and answer, but also at the earing of the suit, and that issues shall be laid down. It is right that the iff shall be exact in the form in which laint is drawn up; but if there be any nctness, it is not so material as to re- us to set aside the decisions which may me to upon the issues between the s.

ere is no doubt that the plaintiff might alleged that he was dispossessed when ent-suit was first decided against his ents; but it is also probable that the iff did not consider that that decision ossessed him, as the ryot was upon his and the decision might be set aside appeal. And again he might have con- ed he was dispossessed after the deci- on appeal; but even then there might ome ground for holding that he was in possession, if the ryot was ready to inue to pay him rents. After that ryot ejected, and the defendant placed a new of his own on the land, I think that plaintiff was then really dispossessed, and that the proper form of his plaint would have been a request to be restored to possession. But, as I said before, I would not quash all the proceedings in this suit on the ground of informality in the plaint.

It then remains for me to consider whether the decision of the Subordinate Judge is sufficient. Here it is argued, on special appeal, that the title set up by the plaintiff has not been enquired into, but that the decision has gone wholly upon the question of possession. The Subordinate Judge, differing from the Moonsiff, finds that the plaintiff and his father have been in possession of 10 annas of the lakheraj estate for more than 20 years, and that the father of Alla Buksh, as well as the tenant Alla Buksh himself, have for that time paid plaintiff a 10-annas share of the rent of the disputed land. Under these circumstances, the Subordinate Judge holds that the plaintiff is entitled to have that 20 years' possession confirmed. I am not prepared to hold that he is wrong in this decision. It is supported by ample evidence, a great portion of which has been read to us. It appears to me that, even if the plaintiff could not prove his hibbanamah, still this 20 years' possession would entitle him to be replaced in the possession from which the decision of the rent-suit had to some extent removed him. The real gist of this suit was to do away with the effect of that rent-decision, and for a declaration that the plaintiff was entitled to 10 annas of the rent of the disputed land. The determination of this question would depend upon whether the plaintiff had all along been in possession of the 10-annas share of the lakheraj estate generally. The Subordinate Judge finds that he has been in possession of it, and decides it accordingly. I would dismiss this appeal with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—This is a suit for confirmation of possession by adjudication of right. The defendants brought a suit for rent against one Alla Buksh for the years 1272 and 1273 in the Deputy Collector's Court, alleging himself to be the proprietor of the 16 annas of the mouzah in which this jote of Alla Buksh is situate, and therefore entitled to the whole rent thereof. The plaintiff in this case intervened under Section 77 of Act X. of 1859, claiming a 10-annas share of the rent on the ground that he was the proprietor to the extent of 10 annas of the mouzahs, and as such entitled to, and is in receipt of, a similar share of the rent of this jote. The Deputy Collector, as

well as the District Judge on appeal, however, decreed full rent to the defendant, and hence the plaintiff instituted this suit in the Civil Court on the 2nd Jeyt 1276, corresponding to the 14th of May 1869.

For the defence it is alleged that neither the plaintiff nor his predecessors were ever in possession of the jote or of the mouzah, but that the defendants had been in possession for nearly 60 years; and therefore the present suit for confirmation of possession would not lie. Secondly, that plaintiff has no right at all to the disputed property, his ancestor Kamalooddeen was not a son of Jemal Bibee, and was never in possession, and that the hibba, &c., propounded by the plaintiff are not genuine documents.

The Court of first instance dismissed the suit, holding that plaintiff has not only failed to prove his possession at the date of suit, but that the defendants have proved to its satisfaction that they were in sole possession of this property for a period of nearly 60 years as alleged by them; and that consequently the suit is barred by limitation. On the merits that Court likewise held that plaintiff has utterly failed to make out any title whatsoever. On the appeal of the plaintiff, the Subordinate Judge, Mr. Hutchinson, decreed the plaintiff's suit.

He says that, "instead of examining ancient "documents devoid of attesting witnesses, "it would be more satisfactory to look at "the evidence of the last 20 years; and if "plaintiff can prove that during that period "the 10-annas share was held by the family, "he ought to get a decree." He then goes on to say that the land is not in the *de-facto* possession of either party, but in the possession of one Alla Buksh, who states that he and his father paid rent to both the litigants; and that this "gives the plaintiff title to the "land, in case an uninterrupted duration of "more than 12 years which no rent-decision "could easily shake off."

Now, in a suit for confirmation of possession by an adjudication of right when the defendant denies that the plaintiff is in possession, it is incumbent on the plaintiff to prove that he was in possession of the land when the suit was brought. It is clear from the record that plaintiff was not in possession, at least from 1273 to 1276, the year in which he instituted this suit. In fact, it is admitted before us by the pleader for the respondent that plaintiff was not in possession during those years.

The rent-suit was brought in 1273 for rents of 1272 and part of 1273 by defendant against the witness Alla B Plaintiff intervened on the ground that entitled to a 10-annas share of the re these years. He was, however, unsucce for the defendants recovered a decree f full rent for those years. The plaintiff instituted this suit in Jeyt 1276, and admitted before us that he has not re any rent at least from 1273 downward that the defendants had.

The witness Alla Buksh was exa by the plaintiff, and he also admits that the rent-decree was passed in defen favor, he was turned out by the defe from his jote. The amdanee and bakee, &c., papers are also for 1270-71 1272, and were rejected by the first as wholly unattested. There is, ther neither an allegation that plaintiff w possession in those years, nor is ther proof of possession from 1273 to da suit. It is impossible, therefore, to out how the Subordinate Judge finds the plaintiff was in possession, and h gave him a decree for confirmation of po sion.

Then as to title. The plaintiff comes Court to have a certain specific title de ed in him founded on a hibba from a ce person, who, by a certain mode of devol of the property, became the owner o annas. The defendants traverse all the gations of fact made by the plaintiff, impeach the genuineness of the hibba. sequently, the Subordinate Judge was b to see whether the title set up was good by the plaintiff. In a suit for rec of possession, a plaintiff may succee proof of long possession, because a lon uninterrupted possession is some pre tion of a title in him. But in suits ba for confirmation of possession on an adju tion of a particular title, the plaintiff is b not only to show that he was in posse at the date of suit, but that the title s by him is a good and valid title.

In cases of this nature, which can onl brought on a disturbance or threat of turbance of the quiet possession which plaintiff says he has in the land, the pla iff is bound to prove that he is in possess and if the Court find on inquiry that pla iff was not in possession, it cannot a decree to the plaintiff for confirmatio possession, but must dismiss the suit together.

The plaintiff in this case has evidently taken his remedy. The acts of the defendant in successfully preventing him from realizing the rent of the disputed land from the tenant Alla Buksh for the years 1272 and 1273, and the fact of defendant continuing to realize the full rent from the tenant himself for those years and for the subsequent thereto, and then eventually turning out the tenant from the land show that defendant has completely dispossessed the plaintiff. The plaintiff should, therefore, have brought a suit for recovery of possession, and not one for confirmation thereof; for a Court by its decree cannot confirm a thing in plaintiff's favor he is not in enjoyment of. In this case it is clear that the plaintiff was not in possession, and consequently we cannot decree that he be confirmed in possession. I would, therefore, following an uniform course of decisions of this Court, a few of which I quote in the margin,* dismiss the suit of the plaintiff.

*Weekly Reporter, page 176.
*Weekly Reporter, page 64.

The appeal, therefore, will be decreed with all costs.

The 20th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Enhancement of rent—Excess land.

Case No. 2258 of 1870.

Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judicial Commissioner of Sitla Nagpore, dated the 3rd August 1870, modifying a decision of the Assistant Commissioner of Burhee, dated the 8th December 1869.

Baboo Kunchun Deo Singh (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Tekaet Sidh Nath Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Taruck Nath Dutt for Appellant.

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry and *Gopal Chunder Mookerjee* for Respondent.

A suit for a kubooleut at a given rent, where the rate claimed is found to be above what is fair and equitable, is a suit for enhancement to which the Full Bench Ruling at p. 14, Weekly Reporter, Volume X., applies, even though the rent is asked only for excess land.

Glover, J.—We think that this case should be governed by the decision of the Full Bench in the case of Golam Mahomed and another *versus* Asmut Ali Khan Chowdhry, reported in Volume X., Weekly Reporter, page 14. The plaintiff brought his suit for a kubooleut at a certain rate. He said that on measurement the defendant was found to hold 154 beegahs 12 cottahs 19 dans in excess, on which the proper rent at the rate of 3 rupees per beegah was 403 rupees 2 annas 9 pie. The defendant objected that he only held 50 beegahs; and that, even if he had held anything more than 50 beegahs, still the rate claimed was excessive, as he had brought the land under cultivation at his own expense and at very considerable trouble. The case was the subject of various remands in the Lower Courts, all on the subject of what was a fair and proper rate of rent; and the Judicial Commissioner, on the 3rd remand, found that the proper rates of rent for the land were 3 rupees, 2 rupees, and 1 rupee 4 annas per beegah, reducing, that is, the plaintiff's claim from Rupees 403-2-9 to Rupees 345-13-1.

It appears to us that this case exactly comes under the ruling above-quoted. Here, as in that case, the landlord came into Court to obtain a kubooleut at a given rate of rent, and the judgment of the Court below on the evidence was that that rate of rent which he demanded was considerably above what was found to be fair and equitable.

It is contended by the pleader for the special appellant that this is not properly a suit for enhancement; that the measurement was made to find out what excess lands the defendant was in possession of, and it was only on that excess that rent was asked. But neither was the Full Bench decision a suit for enhancement—it was a case for a kubooleut at specified rates; and this case appears to be precisely the same. Then, again, it is said that, even if the Full Bench ruling does apply, the plaintiff has prevented himself from taking advantage of it by consenting to three successive remands in the Lower Courts without taking the objection now taken by him. We may observe that these remands in the Lower Court were simply to find what were fair and equitable rates, and this mode of proceeding was taken by the Court at its own instance. It does

not appear that either the plaintiff or defendant were consulted as to the means the Court thought proper to take in order to arrive at a proper decision; and in any case we do not see how the defendant could have taken any objection until he knew the result of the enquiry, for that enquiry might have resulted in a finding that the fair and proper rent was what he himself was willing to pay.

We think, therefore, that the special appeal must be allowed, the judgment of the Court below reversed, and the suit of the plaintiff dismissed with all costs.

The 20th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Notice—Service on Pleaders.

Case No. 2372 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Purneah, dated the 24th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 9th February 1869.

Ishur Dutt Mundul (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Shib Pershad Thakoor (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Khettur Mohun Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Respondent.

Service upon a respondent's pleaders is good service upon himself, so far as notice of the appeal is concerned.

Glover, J.—THERE are no grounds for this special appeal. The suit was for rent, and was decided against the defendant. He appealed to the Judge, and after a remand the appeal was disposed of in his absence under the provisions of Section 346 of Act VIII. of 1859. The Judge remarks that, although notice was duly served on the appellant, he did not make his appearance on the day fixed; and he, therefore, proce to dispose of the case on such evidenc was before him. On that evidence, found that the plaintiff was entitled decree. The special appellant's pl desires to take a ground which is not found in the written grounds of appeal, to the effect that there is no su proof on the record that notice was on the appellant. No sufficient rea given why we should admit the obj at this stage of the case, the less so find that the Judge mentions in his d that notice *was* duly served. Moreo appears that pleaders had been appoin the appellant to conduct his appeal befo Judge, and it is admitted that notic duly served upon, and received by pleaders; so that under any circumstanc the spirit of the Code of Civil Proc service upon these pleaders would be service on their employers, so far as of the appeal was concerned.

Another objection taken is that the has decided the case without fixing termining the issues laid down by the Court in its remand-order. Looking order, we find that the only issue whic Judge was directed to try was wheth defendant was tenant to the plaintiff whole of the land or not, as there had it appears, certain portions of the which were claimed by other parties in respect of which the defendant c exemption from any liability to pay the plaintiff. This issue we find th Judge did try, for he says distinctly proceed to see what evidence there to the plaintiff being the landlord defendant for the whole land claimed what evidence as to rates." This obje therefore, falls to the ground.

The last objection that there is dence to warrant a decree at the en rent claimed is altogether unt There is on the record the report Ameen, who went to the spot and ma quiries as to the rates, which repo Judge believes. This report undoub was legal evidence on which the could come to a decision; and if there no evidence brought forward to rebut it, was the appellant's own fault. He ch keep away while the appeal was being and must take the consequences.

The special appeal is dismissed costs.

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The 20th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

twarra—Jurisdiction—Right of action.

Cases Nos. 2420 and 2421 of 1870.

ial Appeals from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, ted the 17th August 1870, affirming a sion of the Moonsiff of Sogrujgurrah, ted the 18th May 1870.

nj Beharee Singh and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Neeroo Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

aboo Doorga Doss Dutt for Appellants.

No one for Respondent.

Collector's butwarra-proceedings, though final for rpose of fixing the proportionate area and assess- are not to preclude parties from coming into Court nforcement of their civil right under Section 1, VIII. of 1859.

ayley, J.—THERE is no ground whatfor these appeals.

oth the Courts below have come to a ng of fact, whether right or wrong, the defendants, appellants, have neither nor possession. The Lower Appellate t has gone upon the oral and the docuary evidence, has considered the regis- leases, Collectorate dakhilas, and other ments produced in the case; and it is a consideration of the whole evidence it has come to the conclusion that the tiff has made out his case, and the deant has failed to rebut it.

is urged that the butwarra-proceedings e Collector are final. They are so for the pose of fixing the proportionate area and portionate assessment of Government re- e, but they are not to preclude parties n coming into Court for the enforcement their civil right under Section 1, Act VIII. 1859.

Both the appeals are dismissed, as both are mitted to be governed by one decision in ecial appeal—special appeal No. 2420 with- costs, as no one appears; No. 2421 with ts.

Paul, J.—I quite agree.

The 20th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Proceedings of Lower Courts—Commissions—Section 180, Act VIII., 1859—Evidence.

Case No. 2571 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Rajshahye, dated the 8th September 1870, reversing a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 29th January 1870.

Ramrukha Roy Jemadar (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Gobind Doss Byragee and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. J. S. Rochfort for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

In proceedings such as the deputation for a local investigation of a person other than an officer appointed for the purpose of executing such commissions, it must be assumed that what is done by the Lower Courts is rightly done until the contrary is proved.

Where an order for a local investigation under Section 180, Code of Civil Procedure, is not objected to by the opposite party at the time it is made, the Court is justified in viewing as evidence the report of the Commissioner and the depositions taken by him, being a part of the record.

Paul, J.—IN this case two points have been taken in special appeal. The first is that the Subordinate Judge was wrong in deputing a mohurrir of his Court to make the local investigation. It is said that Section 180, Act VIII. of 1859, provides that, where the Court considers a local inquiry requisite, "it may issue a commission to "an officer of the Court *appointed to execute such commissions*, or if there be no "such officer, to any suitable person," &c. It is argued that the mohurrir was not an officer appointed to execute the commission, that there is nothing to show that there was no officer of the Court who could execute it, and that, therefore, the deputation of the mohurrir by the Subordinate Judge to make the local investigation was illegal and erroneous.

Now, on this point, we have to observe that in all cases like the present it must be

assumed that all what is done by the Lower Courts is rightly done until the contrary is proved. We must take it, therefore, that, when the Subordinate Judge deputed the mohurrir for the investigation, there was no proper officer of the Court available for the purpose; and in the absence of any such officer, he was, under the law, entitled to depute any suitable person whom he thought fit for the occasion. The first point, therefore, fails.

The next point taken is that the report of the mohurrir was altogether irregular and informal, and that the Subordinate Judge ought not to have considered it.

Now, Section 180, Act VIII. of 1859, provides: "In any suit or other judicial proceeding in which the Court may deem a local investigation to be requisite or proper for the purpose of elucidating the matters in dispute, the Court may issue a commission to an officer of the Court appointed to execute such commission, or if there be no such officer, to any suitable person directing him to make such investigation, and to report thereon to the Court." The Section then, after providing that such Commissioner should have power to examine witnesses, documents, &c., goes on to say: "The report and deposition shall be taken as evidence in the suit, and shall form part of the record; but it shall be competent to the Court or to the parties to the suit or any of them, with the permission of the Court, to examine the Commissioner personally in open Court touching any of the matters referred to him or mentioned in his report, or the manner in which he may have conducted the investigation."

In the present case, the question was whether the lands in suit belonged to, and were in the possession of, the defendant, and with a view to the determination of this question the Court deemed a local investigation necessary. The order that there would be such local investigation was not objected to at the time by the special appellant. The result of that investigation was that it was found that the lands which were formerly the chakran lands of the defendant had been resumed by the zemindar before the mortgage was made, and from this circumstance the Subordinate Judge did not consider it probable that the defendant should have mortgaged such land; and the plaintiff, being a resident of the same place, and as such fully acquainted with the facts, should have advanced money upon the mortgage of [illegible] lands. We think that the report of [illegible] Commissioner deputed in this case and [illegible] depositions of the witnesses taken by [illegible] forming part of the record, the Lower C[illegible] was justified in viewing that report as [illegible]dence. Besides, the finding which the L[illegible] Appellate Court has come to in this ca[illegible] not only based upon the report, but also [illegible] the facts and circumstances of the ca[illegible] evidence. We do not think, therefore, [illegible] the second objection has any force in it.

The special appeal is dismissed, but [illegible] out costs, no one appearing for the re[illegible]ents.

The 21st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Gl[illegible]
Judges.

Mesne-profits—Execution.

Case No. 447 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order [illegible] by the Officiating Judge of East [illegible]wan, dated the 10th September [illegible] modifying an order of the Subord[illegible] Judge of that District, dated the 25th [illegible] 1870.

Janokee Nath Mookerjee and others (J[illegible]ment-debtors), *Appellants.*

versus

Raj Kristo Singh (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboos Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee and *U[illegible] Churn Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *A[illegible]tosh Mookerjee* for Respondent.

Where a decree awards mesne-profits up to the [illegible] of institution of the suit, the Court executing it h[illegible] power to give more.

Glover, J.—The point in this appe[illegible] whether a creditor who has got a decree [illegible] possession and for wassilat from the [illegible] of ouster to the date of institution of suit [illegible] in execution, have the mesne-profits ca[illegible]lated and awarded up to the date on wh[illegible] he gets possession.

he Lower Appellate Court has held that is a question regarding the amount of ne-profits, and as such can be decided r the provisions of Section 11, Act III. of 1861, and that no separate suit he mesne-profits occurring between the tution of suit and possession in exe-n need be brought. The Judge ac-ingly awarded mesne-profits, as found he Ameen, up to the date of the decree-er's getting possession.

e think that the Judge was wrong. The ing of that part of Section 11 quoted him has been discussed at some length the case of Hur Mohinee Chowdhrain s Dhun Monee Chowdhrain, 10 Weekly orter, p. 62; and we concur in the view of law taken by the learned Judges in that that "the words 'payable in respect of subject-matter of a suit' can only be htly spoken of that which is due to me one under an obligation already ex-ing. Mesne-profits, then, which are entially of the nature of damages, can ly be payable when they are due under order of Court."—(Phear, J.)

he point was also considered in the Full ch case of M dhoosoodun Lall *versus* Bhi-e Singh, o Weekly Reporter, p. 109, it was held that the questions referred to in later portion of Section 11, Act XXIII. 861, were questions of amount only.

d again in the case of J. P. Wise s Rajendro Koomar and others, 11 kly Reporter, p. 200, it was laid down "it is an essential part of a decree ich orders mesne-profits to be assessed execution to fix the period in respect which such mesne-profits are to be essed."

n the present case, mesne-profits were he terms of the decrees given from the of ouster to the date of institution of only; and that there was no intention of g more seems probable from the peculiar ding of the order which makes the pay-t of costs to depend on how much of the intiff's claim for wassilat was, on enquiry, nd to be proved. At all events, it is quite r that nothing in the decree gave the ree-holder mesne-profits for any time be-d the date of institution of suit, and that, e desires to get them for a further period, must bring a suit for the purpose, suppos-him to be still in time to do so.

That such a suit could have been brought has been already decided by the ruling in Ranee Surno Moyee *versus* Protap Chunder Burrooah, 13 Weekly Reporter, p. 15.

The pleader for the special respondent has referred us to the case of Hokum Bibee *vs.* Khaja Mahomed Moosa Khan, 6 Weekly Reporter, p. 14, in which it was held that mesne-profits for the period during which the decree-holder executing his decree was kept out of possession by the opposite party could be awarded under Section 11 of Act XXIII.; but the rulings we have referred to above, and which we propose to follow, are both of them later in date than the one quoted for the special respondent; and one of them is the decision of a Full Bench.

We think that the Court executing this decree had no power to do more than assess the wassilat which were decreed, and that the Judge was wrong in holding that it had such power.

The decree is allowed, and the order of the Court below reversed with all costs.

The 21st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Magistrate's award—Chapter XX., Act XXV. of 1861—Right of action.

Case No. 1385 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Tipperah, dated the 26th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Begumgunge, dated the 29th August 1869.

Madhub Chunder Gooho and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Kumla Kant Chuckerbutty and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Anund Chunder Ghossal and *Sreenath Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Doorga Mohun Doss* for Respondents.

Where a Magistrate, proceeding under Chapter XX. of the Criminal Procedure Code, removed a bridge, it was held that a suit would not lie for a naked declaration of right without any consequential relief against parties no further interested in the matter than that they had put the Magistrate in motion.

Macpherson, J.—In this case the plaintiffs had erected a bridge extending from one bank of a *khal* to the other, both banks being their own property. This bridge was removed by the Magistrate, who proceeded under Chapter XX. of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Magistrate, in removing the bridge, is said to have been put in motion by the defendants, whose object in getting the bridge pulled down was to prevent people from going over by it to a *haut*, which is held on the plaintiff's land. The defendants appear to have a *haut* of their own, which is held some little distance off, but in the same neighbourhood. The bridge having been removed, the plaintiffs instituted the present suit. The plaint expressly, on the face of it, seeks to set aside the order of the Magistrate and for a declaration of the right of the plaintiffs to re-construct the bridge pulled down.

The first Court, without going into the case, decided that such a suit will not lie The Judge has held in effect that the suit will not lie in the exact form in which it was brought, that is to say, that it will not lie so far as it seeks to set aside the order of the Magistrate, or so far as it seeks to have the bridge re-built, but that it will lie so far merely as it prays for a declaration of the right and title of the plaintiffs. The Judge remanded the case to the Moonsiff to try the question of the right of the plaintiffs to erect a bridge. He says: "I am of "opinion that this suit will lie to try the "plaintiffs' right, from any usage or on other "grounds, to erect a bridge over the river "in dispute. Should they obtain a decree "of right, *i. e.*, declaratory decree, they "should petition the Magistrate accordingly, "who, I have do doubt, would direct "the height of the bridge ought to be "should another bridge be built of the "description as that ordered to be "down, no declaratory decree of rig "erect a bridge would prevent its "again ordered to be pulled down if "proved an obstruction to navigation."

The Judge, rightly considering th Full Bench in the case of Oojul Dassee *versus* Chunder Koomar (12 Weekly Reporter, page 18, Full Rulings) only held that a civil suit wi lie to reverse the Magistrate's order, opinion that, although the order of Magistrate must stand, the Civil C could nevertheless go into the que of the rights of the parties, and make a declaration as to them as the plai sought.

I am of opinion that the Judge is wr and that the suit ought to have been missed. In the first place the decree, w the Judge says, the plaintiffs may be en to, differs substantially from the d which the plaintiffs sought. They for such a decree as would give them the bridge which had been removed. the Judge holding them not entitled to a decree, deems them entitled to a declaration of right to have a bridge It is very questionable whether, upon ground alone, the Judge's order of rema not bad. However that may be, I think remand is wrong, because such a decre the Judge contemplates is a mere declar decree giving no consequential relief, from which, in fact, no relief could be ob ed. A declaration such as the Judge poses would practically in no degree imp the position of the plaintiffs. It at would be binding only upon the defend in the present suit, whose sole interest the matter, as the case at present stands it can be said to be an interest), is that set the Magistrate in motion in the proce ings which he has taken. Supposing such declaration was made by the Court, would it avail the plaintiffs against subs quent proceedings under Chapter XX. of Criminal Procedure Code taken hereat by the Magistrate against a new bri built by the plaintiffs? The bridge wh the plaintiffs had has been removed; doubtless, if they rebuild it as it was, it again be removed. But if they build it on new plan, in such a manner, for instance,

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revent its being considered by the Ma-
ate to be an obstruction to the naviga-
of the *khal*, it is quite possible it may
be objected to by the Magistrate, and
it may answer all the purposes of the
e, the removal of which is now com-
ed of.

e precise question now before us does
eem to have been decided yet. Cer-
, it was not decided or even approached
case of Taruck Nath Mookerjee *versus*
Collector of Hooghly (13 Weekly
ter, page 13), which seems to be in
degree relied upon by the Judge as
ting the view which he takes. That
case which turned wholly upon the
dings of the Magistrate having been
lar, and without jurisdiction. And
oint decided in that case was the
al responsibility of the Magistrate for
done by him irregularly, without juris
n, and without due care. The Full
decision which has been already al-
to merely decides that the Magis-
order cannot be set aside. And
ase of Buroda Pershad Moostafee
Gora Chand Moostafee, reported
Weekly Reporter, page 160, also
ot decide this question.

king at the decided cases and at
r XX. of the Criminal Procedure
it appears to me that it must be con-
d now as established that the decision
agistrate, when regularly arrived at
r the purposes of the present appeal
be taken that the proceedings were
ly held), is conclusive as regards the
lar act done by him; and I do not
that a suit will lie for a naked de-
ion of right, without any consequential
against persons who are not further
ed in the matter than that they were
rsons who put the Magistrate in mo-
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think the Judge's decree ought to be
ide, and that the plaintiff's suit ought
dismissed with costs in all the Courts.

okerjee, *J.*—I concur. The Judge
also of opinion that the Magistrate's
passed under Chapter XX. of the Cri-
Procedure Code was passed with ju-
ction, and could not be set aside by a
suit. The Judge should have stopped
, and dismissed the suit. His order of
nd is clearly wrong, and must be set
e.

The 21st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Right of way—User—Limitation.

Case No. 1400 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Tipperah, dated the 30th April 1870, modifying a decision of the Moonsiff of Noornuggur, dated the 25th August 1869.

Joy Doorga Dossia (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Juggernath Roy (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Respondent.

In order to establish a right of way, the person claiming must prove uninterrupted user for a certain length of time; and, if his right is interrupted, must go into Court *at once.*

No length of time can give a party such a right as destroys all the ordinary uses of the servient property, *e. g.*, a struggling right to the promiscuous use of a whole property for the purpose of driving cattle over it.

Macpherson, J.—I AM of opinion that the decision of the Lower Appellate Court ought to be reversed.

The plaint, on the face of it, shows that the rights of way now claimed by the plaintiff (if they ever existed) were, as regards the plots Nos. 1 and 2, interrupted by the defendant so long ago as the Bengalee year 1268, and, as regards plot No. 3. were interrupted so long ago as the year 1273.

Now, this suit was instituted on the 3rd of March 1869, about 4 years subsequent to the interruption of the right to pass over No. 3, and 8 or 9 years subsequent to the

interruption of the user of the other rights of way now claimed.

In order to establish a right of way, there is no doubt that the person claiming it must prove uninterrupted user for a certain length of time; and that, if his right is interrupted, he must go into Court *at once* if he wishes to maintain the right. The present plaintiff did not come into Court for many years after his enjoyment of his alleged right was put an end to; and I think that his suit was in consequence bad on the face of it.

Further, it seems to me that the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in holding that any legal right of way was proved over No. 3.

The Court of first instance, on personal investigation of the property, found that the right claimed over No. 3 was a right of driving cattle generally over certain plots of ground that once lay fallow, but latterly were cultivated. And the Moonsiff held that there was no right of way established.

The Judge, however, says that the plaintiff's cows have been for very many years driven by him over these lands, and that this must be considered to have given him a right of way which cannot now be interfered with.

If the having driven the cattle over the lands *generally*—that is to say, not by any particular path, but straggling promiscuously over the lands—which is the right claimed by the plaintiff, be held to give the plaintiff a right in all time to come so to drive his cattle, it would be interfering with the lands to such an extent as to make it impossible that they should ever be used for any useful purpose. But a right of way or other easement must not be so large as to extinguish or destroy all the ordinary uses of the servient property (see *Zumeer Ali*, 1 Weekly Reporter, page 230); and, in my opinion, no length of time would have given the plaintiff such a right as he claims, namely, a straggling right to the promiscuous use of the whole property for the purpose of driving his cattle over it.

On the whole, I think that the appeal ought to be allowed, the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court reversed, and the suit of the plaintiff dismissed with costs in all Courts.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 21st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and C kool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Grounds of appeal—Omission by Court— dure—Mahomedan Law—Husband an —Contract—Maintenance.

Case No. 2023 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pa the Judge of Tipperah, dated th June 1870, affirming a decision Subordinate Judge of that District, the 6th December 1869.

Yusoof Ali Chowdhry (Defendant) *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Fyzoonissa Khatoon Chowd (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Appell

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and S *nath Doss* for Respondent.

Where a ground of appeal stated in the writ morandum is not alluded to when the appeal ca for hearing, the Court is not at fault if no dec passed upon it. If, having had his attention c it, a Judge fails to decide such point, the proper for the parties aggrieved is to ask him to rev judgment.

In order to satisfy the High Court that a poin the Judge omitted to notice was actually taken oral pleadings, a party may put in either an aff some person who heard the point raised, or a the petition to the Judge drawing attention to th sion, with his order.

Where a Mahomedan wife, in re-conveying to band the property received from him in lieu of took from him a written agreement in which he nanted to pay her a certain sum of money annual out objection or demur: HELD that the husband not avoid payment on any of the pleas on w Mahomedan husband could avoid the payment of tenance to a wife.

Macpherson, J.—I AM of opinion th judgment of the Appellate Court is and ought to be affirmed.

It is contended that we ought to rem the case, in order that the Judge may de the question whether or not the defen in entitled to the 350 rupees mentione the pleadings.

The Judge, in his decision, takes no no whatever of this question.

is argued that, inasmuch as one of the grounds of appeal filed in the Lower llate Court related to this matter, we w bound to remand the case for an ex- decision of this point.

ink we are not bound to do anything sort, when there is nothing to induce ppose that the Judge was ever asked ess any opinion as to these 350 ru- Grounds of appeal are daily stated e written memoranda of appeal, which t alluded to when the appeal comes on aring. If they are not then alluded is the fault of the parties, and not of dge, if no decision is passed upon

a distinct issue such as this as to the es 350 had ever been urged before the , it his attention had been called to it I have no doubt that he would have d it. If he, having had his attention to it, failed to decide the point, the r course for the appellants to pursue ask him to review his judgment, and to it the decision which he had omit-

appeal is dismissed with costs.

kerjee, J.—I entirely concur. I think serious imputation on a Judge to say e has not paid any attention to a par- plea distinctly raised before him in ent. It must be shown to us clearly e point was actually pressed in the Appellate Court before we can re- the case to the Judge for an opinion t point. It is not sufficient to show e written grounds of appeal contain ection; for we find that the pleaders urge all the objections contained in emoranda of appeal. In the exercise r discretion, they often abandon many t, which they consider to be unten- r frivolous.

ll cases where the Courts below real- t to notice a particular objection urg- e parties ought to be able to satisfy us the point was actually taken before the in the oral pleadings. This can be either by an affidavit of some person lly present in Court who heard the raised, or by a petition to the Judge g his attention to the omission, and g him to pass an opinion on the parti- point. A copy of this petition with rder of the Judge may be sufficient to that the point was raised before him absence of any such evidence, we are bound, I think, to presume from the fact of the Judge taking no notice whatever of the point, said to have been pressed before him, that it was, in fact, never pressed.

As regards the point of Mahomedan law raised in the case, to the effect that the plaintiff is not entitled to the maintenance claimed on the ground of her being a "rebellious wife" who had refused to live with her husband, the defendant, I am of opinion that the contention is entirely untenable. The Judge is right in holding that the contention does not arise in this case.

The plaintiff does not sue for maintenance in right of her being a wife of the defendant under the Mahomedan law for the first time in this suit; but it appears that the plaintiff, when re-conveying the property assigned over to her by the defendant in lieu of dower, had taken a written agreement from the defendant, in which the defendant had expressly agreed and covenanted to pay annually the sum of 600 rupees to the plaintiff without any objection or demur. This agreement was, therefore, for a valuable consideration paid by the plaintiff to the defendant. In this suit, the plaintiff is only demanding this sum of money, which in the agreement, however, is called a "sum allotted for her maintenance." The plaintiff, it therefore appears to me, is not claiming a maintenance in the strict sense of that term from the defendant, because she was his wife, and as such entitled to some maintenance, but she is asking the defendant to fulfil the terms of the contract entered upon by him with her in this agreement. There is no stipulation in this deed that the plaintiff will be entitled to this sum in case only of her living in the same house with the defendant, or that she would forfeit this amount if she lives elsewhere. I think, therefore, that the point of Mahomedan law pressed upon us does not arise in this case. This is a suit founded on an express contract of the defendant to pay a certain sum of money annually to the plaintiff in consideration of her relinquishing the property she obtained as her dowry for the term of the natural life of the defendant. The fact of plaintiff being the wife of the defendant, or this annuity or allowance being called "maintenance," would not change the real character of the allowance, and enable the defendant to plead any of the pleas on which a claim to maintenance by a Mahomedan wife can be avoided by the husband under the law of that religion. Here are two parties, one has relinquished a valuable

property on a consideration of an annual payment of 600 rupees, the other accepts the same, and covenants to pay this sum without any objection. This appears to me to be clearly a simple case of contract, and plaintiff will succeed exactly as if she was not the wife of the defendant, but a stranger who had parted with her property for a consideration of 600 rupees to be annually paid to her by the defendant. The appeal should be dismissed with all costs.

The 21st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble E. Jackson, *Judge*.

Breach of contract—Liability—Cause of action.

Case No. 2187 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 15th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 6th December 1869.

Brojo Nath Paul Chowdhry and another (Defendants), *Appellants*,

versus

Bimola Soonduree Dossia (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Baboos Taruck Nath Sein and *Mohendro Lall Shome* for Appellants.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Kalee Mohun Doss* for Respondent.

Defendants, for a consideration, granted to plaintiffs a lease of certain churs, which were an accretion to a zemindary, and had been in the possession of Government, but were at the time under temporary settlement with the defendants. Subsequently defendants sold their zemindary to a third party reserving to themselves the chur. Ultimately it was ordered by the Commissioner of Revenue that the churs should be settled, not with defendants but with the purchasers (the third party), as appertaining to the zemindary. Defendants, having thus become unable to give plaintiffs possession, were sued for a refund of the premium or consideration money.

HELD that it was the duty of the defendants to take steps to call in question the decision of the Commissioner, and that their manager's admission of their liability to repay the premium with interest put an end to any claim for damages for the original breach of contract, and constituted a fresh cause of action from which limitation ran.

Norman, C. J.—WE think there is no ground for disturbing the decision of the Lower Appellate Court. The facts shortly these. The defendants by a p which was duly registered, granted a for a consideration of a bonus or pr of Rupees 2,537-8 annas, of 1,538 be odd cottahs, at a rent of Rupees 725, tain churs. These churs were an ac to a zemindaree called Dehee Powaeen, belonged to the plaintiff. The ch been in the possession of Governm several years; but at the time of th ing of the pottah, the defendants had ed a temporary settlement of them defendants subsequently sold their daree Dehee Powaeen to Thakoor Gossain, reserving to themselves th called Sattrakatee. Thakoor Doss G obtained a settlement of the zemindar the defendants applied for a settlem the churs. But it was ultimately o by the Commissioner, by a letter da 16th of February 1863, that the should be settled, not with the defe but with Thakoor Doss Gossain, as taining to the zemindaree. The defe thus became unable to give to the p possession of the churs comprised putnee pottah, and the present suit is b to compel them to refund the premiu

The evidence on the part of the p shows that, in 1271, an interview too between the plaintiffs and Brojo Na Chowdhry, who was the manager and member of the family of the defe at which meeting Brojo Nath admit liability of the defendants to repay th which they had received with inasmuch as the defendants were un give possession in accordance with th of the pottah.

The first Court, on this evidence, decree in favor of the plaintiffs, de them entitled to a return of the bon ther with Rupees 200, which had bee sequently paid as rent.

From that decision there was an to the Judge, and the principal point before him, and again before ourselv been that the suit is barred by limitati

The first Court finds that the pl statement that Brojo Nath Paul Cho as manager of the defendants' famil affairs, had agreed on their behalf to the money is proved; and if that there is no question whatever that the ment between the plaintiff and the d ant Brojo Nath amounted to an agre

h

put an end to any claim that might arise suit for damages for the breach of the inal contract, and constituted a fresh e of action; and as this suit was brought in three years from that date, it would rly, in any view of the case, be within time.

he defendants, however, preferred an al against the decision of the Subordi- Judge on that point, and the Judge, on al, omits to express any opinion as to ther the admission on the part of Brojo h, which was denied by him, was really e as alleged.

e, therefore, cannot rest our decision in ming his judgment on an assumption the admission was made. It turns out, ever, that the pottah being a duly regis- d pottah, and containing a contract to possession at the commencement of 8, the suit was originally brought with- six years from the commencement of 8, and is, therefore, clearly within time.

he defendants have also contended that breach of contract on their part is shown. are of opinion that the objection ought to prevail. We are certainly impressed, the facts as stated to us by the vakeels both sides, with the belief that, under the h as granted by the defendants, the ntiffs may have acquired a right which could probably enforce as against Tha- Doss Gossain.

e certainly do not understand why the missioner should have insisted on giving hakoor Doss Gossain a settlement of entire zemindaree including the accreted s, when, by the contract under which koor Doss Gossain became owner of the ndaree, all rights to such accreted s were expressly excluded.

appears to us, however, that it was the of the defendants, as owners of the ndaree, as persons who had agreed to e possession to the plaintiffs, to have en steps to call in question the correct- s of the Commissioner's decision in 1863, her by suit or by an appeal to the Board Revenue. It seems to us that the plaint- llowed what was a reasonable, and more reasonable, time to elapse to enable defendants to take such steps to assert r own title as zemindars, and put the ntiffs in possession; and if it be true, e are disposed to believe that it must be , that the defendants through their h-piece, Brojo Nath, elected not to pur- sue their rights, and offered to pay back the bonus to the plaintiffs, it was not incumbent on the plaintiffs to fight out a battle which was not their own.

We think, therefore, that the decree in favor of the plaintiffs was correct.

The decree of the Lower Appellate Court is affirmed with costs.

The 21st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Possessory suit—Rent-free title—Onus probandi.

Case No. 2333 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, dated the 29th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 21st December 1869.

Ram Narain Singh Deo Bahadoor (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Bistoo Thakoor (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Radhika Churn Mitter for Respondent.

In a suit to recover possession of land within plaintiff's estate, in which defendant sets up a rent-free title, all that plaintiff is required to show is that either he or his predecessor had received rent for the land at some time subsequent to the perpetual settlement, in which case the onus of proving title falls on the defendant.

Glover, J.—This was a suit to recover possession of a certain portion of land which is admittedly contained within mouzah Khoodeebank, the property of the plaintiff. It appears that in 1273 one Sreenath Mahton, a ryot on the land, sued the present defendant for damages for the illegal cutting of his crops. This suit failed, and the plaintiff, as owner of the land within which the jote was situated, brings this suit to recover possession from the defendant on the ground that the cutting of his ryot's crops has dispossessed him from a portion of his property. The defence was that the

land did not belong to the plaintiff at all, but was part of the defendant's rent-free tenure. The first Court found for the plaintiff, holding that he had proved that the land was comprised within his village; that he had been ousted, as alleged, by the defendant; and that the defendant had altogether failed to prove his case.

On appeal, the Judicial Commissioner refused to attach any credence to the witnesses brought forward by the plaintiff, on the ground that, in the former case in which the ryot had sued for damages, he, the ryot, had been unable to prove that the lands now in dispute had been cultivated by him. He found that, although in that case proof of Sreenath's cultivation had failed, in this case seven witnesses had come forward to give evidence as to that fact; and on this account he disbelieves the evidence, and says that the depositions of these witnesses cannot, in the teeth of the Principal Sudder Ameen's decision, prove the plaintiff's possession through Sreenath; and therefore that the plaintiff's case had not been proved.

It appears to us that this decision cannot stand. The land being admittedly within the plaintiff's mouzah, and the defendant setting up a rent-free title to it, all that the plaintiff was required to do was to show that either he himself or his predecessor had received rent for that land at some time subsequent to the Perpetual Settlement, in which case the *onus* of proving his title to the land as rent-free would be on the defendant. In this case the plaintiff produced no less than seven witnesses, who depose to the fact that Sreenath was the ryot cultivating the land on behalf of the plaintiff, and that the plaintiff had received rent from him. The Judicial Commissioner's reasons for disbelieving this evidence appear to us altogether insufficient, for whatever may have passed in a previous case between the defendant and Sreenath can be no evidence whatever against the plaintiff in this case; and even if it were treated as evidence, it would be no ground for disbelieving the evidence of witnesses who have distinctly sworn to the fact of the payment of rent by Sreenath to the plaintiff for the lands in dispute. It is not, moreover, very clear that the original case brought by Sreenath decided this point adversely to the plaintiff's contention in this case. The record of that case has not been filed, and all that the Judicial Commissioner has gone upon is a statement by the Principal Sudder Ameen incidentally made in the course of his decision; and consider that the first Court in that case had gi a decision for the plaintiff on the grou that cultivation of the land by his r Sreenath had been proved to its satisfacti it is certainly not enough, supposing e the former case was evidence, to rely reversing the decree of the first Court upo chance remark in the midst of the Subo nate Judge's decision in a case in wh the plaintiff in this suit was not a p In this case, moreover, we find that o least of the defendant's witnesses p that part of the plaintiff's case, nam that Sreenath was in possession of the l

We think, therefore, that the deci of the Judicial Commissioner has b come to upon what is not legal evide and that his decision should be reve that of the first Court restored, and appeal allowed with costs.

The 21st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. P *Judges.*

Hindoo Law—Adoption—Sudras.

Case No. 2591 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passe the Subordinate Judge of Rajsha dated the 12th September 1870, rever a decision of the Moonsiff of Pa dated the 26th April 1870.

Nittyanund Ghose (Defendant), *Appell*

versus

Kishen Dyal Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respond*

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Chunder Chuckerbutty* for Appellant.

Baboo Luckhee Churn Bose for Respond

Per Bayley, J.—The ceremonies necessary in the of adoption in the superior classes are not nece in the case of adoption by a sudra. Where the adop son is a member of the family, the mere giving taking may be sufficient to give validity to the a tion.

Bayley, J.—I AM of opinion that t special appeal must be dismissed with co The main question raised before us is t the mere giving and taking of the son w not sufficient for the purposes of adoptio and that there is no proof on the record the performance of those ceremonies whic

required by the Hindoo Law to give va-
ty to the adoption in this case, which is
mittedly one of a *sudra*.

Another point raised is that the suit is
red by limitation.

I think it is sufficient for the purposes of
appeal to deal with the first point only.
, it is clear that the adoption was made
247, B. C. It is also clear that this suit
been brought 30 years afterwards. It
also admitted that there was no dispute
regard to this property until the year
, or, in other words, that from the year
down to the year 1256 there was an
terrupted enjoyment of all the rights
belong to an adopted son by the adopted
in this case; and it is not denied that the
ral rites of the father were performed
his adopted boy.

It is urged that these funeral rites might
as well be performed by the other mem-
of the family; but this is rather beg-
the question. Everybody knows that
sapindas are entitled to perform the
ral ceremonies; but it is equally known
an adopted son fully represents the son
the father, and that, on the ground of
very representation, it is he who is or-
rily looked to for the performance of the
ral rites of the adoptive father.

We are referred to a case reported at page
olume XIII., Weekly Reporter, decided
r. Justice Loch and myself; but I think
that case has no bearing upon the
tion at issue in this case. In that case,
ugh the objection taken was that a
a adoption is not valid in the absence
certain ceremonies enjoined by the Hin-
Law, we found that such ceremonies
been performed. It is then ingeni-
y remarked that in that case we
our opinion that the performance of
ceremonies was necessary to render
adoption valid, but did not express that
ion with regard to the necessity of the
doo Law, but only with reference to the
s of the case. We substantially said
e that it was unnecessary to go into
question whether the ceremonies were
olutely requisite or not, because they
e performed in that case, and were re-
red to as having been performed. On
other hand, we have not been pointed
any decision, nor are we aware of any
thority, ruling that the same ceremonies which are necessary to be observed in the case of an adoption in the superior classes are also necessary in the case of an adoption by a sudra. In addition to this, we have this prominent fact in the present case, that the adopted son is a brother's son, a member of the same family, in regard to whom the mere giving and taking may be sufficient to give validity to the adoption, which has been called into question after the lapse of so long a time in the course of which the question as to whether the necessary ceremonies were performed or not was never raised. The presumption, therefore, is that all that was necessary to render the adoption valid had been performed; and with this presumption on the one side, it entirely lies upon the opposite party to rebut it. Now, what do we find that rebuttal consists of? We have a clear finding of fact by the Subordinate Judge below in the following words: "The de-
"fendant has not been able to adduce any
"oral and documentary evidence to show
"that the plaintiff is not an adopted son, and
"is not in possession of the other properties
"left by Nimaye, and also to substantiate his
"own pleas."

Under these circumstances, we think we should be wrong, if now, after the lapse of so many years, when the adopted son has been recognized as such by all the members of the family, has performed the funeral rites, and succeeded to the property of his father, we are to declare the invalidity of his position as adopted son.

In this view, we think it is needless to go into the question of limitation. It is sufficient to say that the suit has been brought within 12 years from the date of the alleged dispossession.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

Paul, J.—I concur. I consider the decision of the Subordinate Judge to be a sensible and a careful judgment. Without dwelling at present on the question of Hindoo Law raised, I think that question does not arise in the present case, because it is clear that, on the death of Nimaye, the plaintiff was, by consent of all the male members of the family, allowed to perform the sradh of Nimaye, and to succeed and get into possession of all the properties left by Nimaye. Under such circumstances, it would be apparently unjust and an extremely hard case if the defendant is now allowed

to raise a question in regard to property which, by common consent of all the members, had been allowed to the plaintiff on the death of Nimaye.

With regard to the question of limitation, I have to observe that it has been found by the Lower Appellate Court that the former suit was a fraudulent suit, inasmuch as Gobind was not the proper guardian of Nimaye. That being so, the decree is not binding, and limitation commences to run from the date of dispossession, which is within 12 years of the present suit.

The 22nd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Certificate under Act XXVII. of 1861—Section 404, Code of Criminal Procedure—Section 7, Regulation V. of 1799.

Case No. 22 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Patna, dated the 16th January 1871.

Cazee Abid Hossein (Petitioner), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Reazun (Opposite Party), *Respondent.*

Mr. C. Gregory for Appellant.

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Respondent.

Case.—A died leaving a widow and two daughters, and property in cash and Government securities. None of his heirs being present at the time, the Magistrate sent the property to the Collector as *lawaris*. The widow applied for a certificate under Act XXVII. of 1861, and obtained it from the Judge, who rejected a similar application from one H alleging himself to be a cousin of the deceased. The widow then, armed with the certificate, applied for the property to the Magistrate, who, on representation from H that he had appealed to the High Court, refused to deliver the property. The w then appealed to the Sessions Judge, who dismiss appeal. She then moved the High Court under Sec 404 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

HELD that the High Court had no jurisdicti deal with the matter under the Section referred to— Act XXV. of 1861.

HELD that the property taken possession of by Magistrate ought to have found its way into the tody of the Civil Court in the manner contempla Section 7, Regulation V. of 1799, and that the Civil C ought to treat the property as practically in its temporary care.

HELD (as regards H's appeal) that the pr might be delivered to the widow who held the certi on her furnishing proper security for the purpose demnifying the appellant H.

Macpherson, J.—WE think this rule o to be discharged on the ground that we h no jurisdiction to deal with the matter u Section 404 of the Criminal Procedure C or otherwise.

We may add, however, that the whol the proceedings appear to us to have b wrongly conceived throughout, and that property which was taken possession of the Magistrate ought to have found its into the care or custody of the Civil C in the manner contemplated by Sectio Regulation V. of 1799; and we think that sooner the Magistrate has the matter with under that Regulation, the better it be for himself if he wishes to avoid re sibility for the property which is now in custody.

As at present advised, we see no re why the Zillah Court should not treat property in the Magistrate's hands as b practically in the temporary care of Civil Court.

As to the certificate which is the sub of the Miscellaneous Regular Appeal No we simply confirm the order granting a c ficate to the respondent, without expre any opinion as to the relationship of the pellant to the deceased. But we shall o that proper security, to the fullest extent can be required for the purpose of inde fying the appellant, shall be taken from respondent (if it has not been already tak For the purposes of calculating the amo of that security, the Rupees 16,000 wh the respondent claims as being his own p perty must be deemed as part of the est of the deceased.

We make no order as to costs.

d

The 22nd March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. A. Glover and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Special Appeal.

Case No. 1274 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Backergunge, d the 22nd March 1870, reversing a ion of the Moonsiff of Dowlutgunge, d the 29th April 1869.

mmeezooddeen Bhooyan (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Joymala (Defendant), *Respondent.*

o Luleet Chunder Sein for Appellant.

abo Grish Chunder Mookerjee for Respondent.

reasons in a judgment are such as can be right- and the inferences such as can be legally it cannot be set aside in special appeal, even if llate Court cannot agree with or support all the given.

er, J.—THIS was a suit on a regis- bond, dated 16th Bhadro 1268, for s 575 principal, and Rupees 425 in- making up the total Rupees 1,000.

defendant denied that she either exe- the bond, or that she was a party to ring it.

Moonsiff, on the evidence, considered d to be genuine, and gave the plaintiff ee.

Subordinate Judge has reversed that n, and dismissed the plaintiff's suit.

s contended in special appeal that the dinate Judge ought to have compared ndwriting of the bond with the ad- handwriting of Tiluck Chunder, the the principal defendant, on another ent, this son being the person who is o have written out the bond; and that, rst Court having decided the case to a extent on the comparison of hand- g, the Subordinate Judge ought not to put that circumstance entirely out of deration.

On referring to the judgment of the Subordinate Judge, we find that this point was considered by him, for he remarks, with reference to the Moonsiff's finding on the comparison of handwriting, that the conclusion of the Moonsiff does not seem to him sufficient. I understand the meaning of this to be that, in the face of the strong reasons which the Subordinate Judge thought sufficient to enable him to say that the bond was never executed by the defendant, the mere comparison of handwriting was not sufficient to establish an entirely contrary state of things. With reference to another part of his decision on the Moonsiff's finding as to the law laid down in Norton on Evidence, we find that the Subordinate Judge is quite correct, inasmuch as the principle of law laid down in that book regards only witnesses, who, either from death or any other circumstance, are not in a position to attend. It is urged generally by the pleader for the special appellant that the Subordinate Judge has wilfully shut his eyes to a number of circumstances which are quite sufficient to show that the plaintiff's case is just, and that the bond was really executed by the defendant. It is not, however, necessary that we should agree with or support all the reasons which the Subordinate Judge has given for his decision. It is sufficient, for the purposes of this special appeal, if we can say, on reading the whole judgment, that the reasons which he has given, and the inferences which he has drawn, are not such reasons and inferences as he could not rightly give or legally draw under the facts and circumstances of the case. One point on which the Subordinate Judge has laid great stress is, we think, a point of very great importance. We find that, at the very time when the plaintiff is said to have lent this money to the defendant on the bond, the plaintiff himself was indebted to the defendant, in no less than Rupees 606 on account of arrears of rent. The Subordinate Judge has considered this a most extraordinary and incredible circumstance, that the defendant, being creditor of the plaintiff in a very large sum, should, at the same time, borrow money from him, and thus put himself in the position of being used for the recovery of the money.

We think, on the whole, that the plaintiff has made out no case sufficient to justify our interference in special appeal, and we, therefore, dismiss this special appeal with costs.

The 22nd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Joint Hindoo family—Commensality—Presumption.

Case No. 1363 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Nuddea, dated the 27th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Kooshteah, dated the 29th May 1867.

Golam Mustafa Khan and others (some of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Sheo Soonduree Burmonee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Kashee Kant Sein* for Appellants.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

Where part of the family-property is proved to be joint, and the members live in commensality, there is a very warrantable presumption, according to Hindoo Law, that the family is joint.

Glover, J.—THIS case was remanded by this Court on the 20th July 1868,* in order that the suit, which involved a great number of defendants, might be tried separately as regards each particular party. This has now been done, and both the Lower Courts have decided the case in the terms of the order of remand.

The suit was for possession of 12 jotes situated in 27 plots on the ground of inheritance, the plaintiff claiming to succeed to certain shares of ancestral estates heretofore held by her son.

The defence was that the property was not ancestral or joint, and that it was the separate acquisition of the two elder brothers, Ram Narain and Gunga Deen, by purchase at auction-sale.

The Subordinate Judge has held that the property was partly joint and party ancestral, and that the plaintiff, as heiress of her minor son, was entitled to the share she claimed.

The points taken in special appeal are, ly, that the Subordinate Judge has not the case as directed by the order of re inasmuch as he has not raised se issues on the point of limitation in to each separate parcel of land.

On this point, we observe that, alt the Subordinate Judge has taken the of the lands in dispute into consid at once, it is quite clear from the d he has recorded that he considere question of possession with reference particular plot of land, and has in found with regard to each plot th plaintiff has been in possession wit years of suit, and that her claim is no red by limitation.

The second objection is that the finding that the plaintiff's husband with his brothers in commensality sufficient to raise the presumption that were members of a joint undivided f

On this point, we observe that the S dinate Judge has not decided that tion simply on the ground that the lived in commensality. He found, no that the parties lived together; but h found that part of the property was doubt proved to be joint: and taking th facts together he raised, it appears a very warrantable presumption, acc to the Hindoo Law, that the famil joint, and that it was for the defend rebut that presumption. He found, ho that the defendant had failed to rebut i

The third ground is that the Subo Judge has come to no finding as regar defendant's objection as regards plot 12, 22, and 23. It is contended th these plots were sold under rent-decre their own arrears, the tenures passed purchaser, and whatever right the p may have had in them was extinguish the sale.

With regard to this objection, it is cient to say that there is no proof o record that the tenures were sold for own arrears. The pleader for the s appellant has not been able to show such was the fact; and even if it were n there is no doubt that the reasons give the Subordinate Judge in his decision this point in the 3rd issue are good sufficient reasons.

The special appeal is dismissed with c

* 10 W. R., p. 187.

The 22nd March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

amee sale—Evidence of bona fides.

Case No. 1476 of 1870.

Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Additional Judge of Chit-g, dated the 29th April 1870, re-g a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff at District, dated the 7th June 1869.

uthuroollah (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

abooddeen and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

aboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Appellant.

r. R. E. Twidale for Respondents.

e a deed of sale is executed under circumstances ggest an intention to defraud creditors, it is ent that the sale was formally made and the y registered; the Court must be satisfied as to ation having actually passed from the purchaser mer owner, and as to the source from which the -money was derived.

arjee, J.—We think that this case e sent back to the Judge for a re-trial. ecision passed by him is far from being ctory. The plaintiff's case was that fendant No. 2, his judgment-debtor, mediately after executing a bond in vor, fraudulently executed a kobalah name merely of the defendant No. 1, l of his son-in-law, but that the de-t No. 2 is the person who was, and is. in the enjoyment of the property.

e Court of first instance gave a decree e plaintiff, giving several reasons for his ion. It found that the consideration ed to have been paid for the purchase e defendant No. 1 was far below the price of the land. He also found that udgment-debtor was really in possession e property after the sale, and that the of the son-in-law of the judgment-debtor g, only a few months after the alleged taken a lease of the property from the sible purchaser, defendant No. 1, is a circumstance which shows that the transaction of sale was a colorable one. The first Court also found that the witnesses examined by the purchaser were all relatives and dependants of the defendant No. 2, and from the tenor of their deposition it was clear they were supporting the fraud of the judgment-debtor, defendant.

On appeal, the Additional Judge reverses the decision of the Court of first instance, and says: "There may be grounds for sus-"picion of the sale under consideration "having been effected with reference to the "seller's debts, but the sale was *formally* "made and the sale-deed *duly registered* "before the decree was issued." In cases of this nature, it is not sufficient to see whether the sale was formally made and the bill of sale was duly registered. What the learned Judge ought to have determined is whether there was an actual sale on payment of consideration, and whether the money, if any was paid, was the money of the pur-chaser, defendant.

Then the Judge goes on to say: "While "it is now urged that the sale was purposely "intended to evade, and before indeed the suit "was instituted which resulted in the afore-"said decree." It is of no consequence whether the sale was made before or after the decree, so long as the sale itself was made fraudulently in favor of a dependant or a friend in order to evade the payment of a just debt or decree.

The Judge also nowhere finds that con-sideration was paid by the purchaser, defend-ant. His finding as to possession is not very clear. It does not appear who is really in possession of the property. The learned Judge would have done well to follow the directions laid down by this Bench in a case reported in Volume XV. of the Weekly Reporter, page 15, as also by the late Chief Justice in a decision to be found in 10 Week-ly Reporter, page 445. There his Lordship said that the real test to be applied in such cases is to find whether the purchaser has actually paid consideration for the purchase; whether that consideration-money belonged to the judgment-debtor or to the purchaser; and to find whether the judgment-debtor is really in possession of the property or in any sort of enjoyment of his purchase.

Here in this case, besides the fact of the purchaser being a friend of the son-in-law of the judgment-debtor (which circumstance is of itself not very important), there are many other facts which throw the greatest

suspicion on this transaction, and it is incumbent upon the defendant, who says that he has made a *bonâ-fide* purchase to clear all those suspicions, and to establish that he is a purchaser who has paid valuable consideration for his purchase. The Judge does not seem to have looked into those points on which the first Court has founded its decree. He has simply relied for the *bona fides* of the transaction on the circumstance of the bill of sale having been drawn out and duly registered. The bill of sale is, of course, not denied by the plaintiff. The mere fact of its being registered carries no guarantee of its being a *bonâ-fide* transaction.

There appears to be no object in the purchase, and it is not explained why immediately after the purchase the house was let to the son-in-law of the debtor on such a low rate of rent. All these circumstances require a closer sifting of the case than what has been done by the Additional Judge. This son-in-law appears to be also a person who is said to be a *ghur jamaie* of the debtor, which almost signifies in this country that he was a man of very little means, entirely dependant on the bounty of the father-in-law, judgment-debtor. The fact of the father-in-law having sold the house for an inadequate consideration to a friend, and the dependant son-in-law having immediately taken the lease of it, and of both the son and father-in-law living in that house, if satisfactorily proved, would tend in a great measure to brand the transaction as a benamee and colourable one.

We, therefore, send the case back to the Judge for re-consideration, and a proper decision of the case with reference to the remarks made above.

Costs of this appeal will follow the final result.

Jackson, J.—I quite concur in the remand. I do not wish at all to give any opinion on the facts as to whether this sale is a *bonâ-fide* sale or not. It is quite possible that it may be *bonâ fide*. But it is for the Judge to find whether it was really a *bonâ-fide* sale or not. Of course, it is quite possible that the debtor sold the property, worth some 800 rupees, for one-half its value. It is not very likely. The purchaser, too, may have had good reasons for afterwards making it over as a perpetual talook to the son-in-law of the former proprietor, though it is not the usual mode of dealing with purchased property. The result of his doing so is to jeopardize his own and title to the property, and to put it in power of the former owner to declare wards that there was no real purchase. real point which, it seems to me, the J has to look to is, not whether the doc was executed or whether it was regi because it would be executed and probably be registered whether there real sale or no sale at all, but whe sum of 399 rupees not only passed fro to hand, but was really paid by the pu to the former owner, where he g money from, and so on. He can show clearly that he really paid so much m and that he had some good reason once allowing the former proprietor's s law to have a permanent talook of it. result of the purchaser's present proce is that he has invested a sum of Rupee permanently at 5 per cent., though th perty is, it is said, worth a great deal money.

It is rather difficult to understand the Judge's intention is in finding as the debtor's possession. It seems to mitted on all hands that the debtor's s law is in possession, and there is dence, as far as the Judge alludes to show that the debtor himself removed the house. Whether the Judge me say that, when he went to the spot, h that the debtor was not there, or he heard from the neighbours that h not still living there, I cannot ascertain his judgment. Whichever it may be, the one nor the other will be con upon the fact that the debtor was possession. The mere statements o neighbours ought not to be taken into sideration at all unless they are pro recorded.

I think the case must go back to Judge for a fresh consideration, and I suggest that he should send for the chaser, and examine him about his purc and subsequent proceedings, and asce whether it was a *bonâ-fide* purchase or no

h

The 22nd March 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble F. A. Glover and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

tion 224, Code of Civil Procedure—Possession—Limitation—Cause of action.

Case No. 1829 of 1870.

cial Appeal from a decision passed by he Subordinate Judge of Jessore, dated e 2nd June 1870, affirming a decision f the Moonsiff of Kooshteah, dated the rst March 1869.

Bindoobashinee Dossee (one of the Plaintiffs), *Appellant,*

versus

. J. R. Rainey (one of the Defendants), *Respondent.*

boo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory for Respondent.

obtained a decree against R for possession of a ty of certain lands appertaining to a shamilah; and e lands were held by ryots entitled to occupy them, ssion was delivered under Section 224, Code of Procedure. Subsequently, W brought another suit st R for possession of the remaining moiety, and, the suit was pending, obtained an award under IV. of 1840, after which R's pleader appeared in , and admitted that the only question remaining to cided was the one of costs.

LD that, after this, limitation could not be pleaded st W, and if R continued to oppose the occupation property by a lessee of W, every such act of ition would give W a fresh cause of action.

itter, J.—It appears that Wooma Churn e and others, the alleged lessors of the tiff, instituted a suit against Mr. Rainey, redecessor of the defendants, for pos- on of a moiety of certain lands apper- g to a shamilah talook in mouzah ally. This suit was decided on the February 1860; and as the lands cover- by the decree were in the possession of who were entitled to occupy the same, ssion was delivered to the lessors of plaintiff under the provisions of Section of the Code of Civil Procedure, by a clamation issued to the occupants of the perty by beat of drum, and also, as the ir's report shows, by taking kubooleuts them. Subsequently, the said Wooma rn Ghose and others brought another against Rainey for possession of the aining moiety of the lands sued for in first case on the 12th January 1860. Whilst this suit was pending, a dispute arose under the provisions of Act IV. of 1840 between the said Wooma Churn Ghose and others on the one side and Mr. Rainey on the other; and an award was made in favor of the former on the 18th June 1861. After the passing of this award, Mr. Rainey's pleader appeared in the suit, and stated to the Court that, as possession of the entire lands then in dispute had been made over to the said Wooma Churn Ghose and others under the Act IV. award above referred to, the only question which the Court had to decide was whether the plaintiff was entitled to his costs or not. It appears that, this application being submitted to the Court, the Court did not make any decree for the possession of the lands, but gave a decree to the plaintiffs for the costs incurred by them in the litigation.

The plaintiff in this suit subsequently took a lease from the said Wooma Churn Ghose and others in the year 1270, and the present action was brought by her for possession of the entire 16 annas of the lands which were in dispute in the two previous suits above referred to. The Lower Appellate Court has now found on remand that, although formal possession was given to the lessors of the plaintiff within 12 years prior to the institution of the present suit, yet such possession was not sufficient to save her claim from the operation of the law of limitation, when there was no reliable evidence on the record to prove that either her lessors or she herself had actually received rents from the ryots within 12 years prior to the date of the institution of this suit.

We are of opinion that this decision is altogether erroneous. It does not lie in the mouth of Mr. Rainey or his successors in title to say that the delivery of possession in the execution-department, under the provisions of Section 224, was not sufficient in law to prove that the lessors of the plaintiff had obtained possession of the property covered by the decree. If Mr. Rainey or his successors, notwithstanding such delivery, continued to oppose the occupation of the property by the lessors of the plaintiff, every such act of opposition would give to the plaintiff a fresh cause of action against them, for the old dispute had been already set at rest by the final proceedings of a Court of competent jurisdiction. It was no fault of the lessors of the plaintiff that possession was given to them by a proclamation issued

under Section 224. The law prescribes a certain mode for the delivery of possession in cases where the lands are in the actual occupancy of tenants entitled to occupy the same; and it was in that mode that possession was given, according to the Judge's finding, to the lessors of the plaintiff at least of one-half the lands now in dispute. With regard to the other half, there was the Act IV. award, and the admission made by Mr. Rainey's pleader in the suit instituted on the 12th January 1860, in which he distinctly acknowledged that possession of the lands claimed in that suit had been actually made over by his client to the lessors of the plaintiff. Under these circumstances, it seems to us clear that the point of limitation cannot be maintained in this case. We have some doubts, however, that the identity of the lands has not been properly determined by the Lower Appellate Court, and we therefore reverse the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and direct the case to be remanded to that officer for a fresh decision on the merits. If the plaintiff can show either that the lands in dispute are covered by the decree which was passed in favor of her lessors in the suit brought on the 25th February 1860, which decree was subsequently executed in the manner stated above, or even that they are covered by the award under Act IV. of 1840, and the petition filed by the pleader of Mr. Rainey in the second suit, there can be no doubt whatever that the plaintiff would be entitled to recover those lands from the representatives of Mr. Rainey, who appear to be the principal defendants in this case.

The costs of this appeal and of the Lower Appellate Court will abide the ultimate result.

The 22nd March 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Permissive user—Revocation.

Case No. 2380 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 6th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Mungulcote, dated the 14th February 1870.

Gooroo Churn Soor and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Sree Churn Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Oopendro Chunder Bose for Appellants.

No one for Respondent.

Where a party, who had enjoyed the permissive use of the water of a tank, does not use it for 4 years from the date of its further excavation, the permission must be taken to be revoked.

Paul, J.—In this case the judgment is manifestly wrong. It appears that the plaintiff enjoyed a permissive use of the water of the defendants' tank, and that 4 years ago the tank was further excavated. From that time the plaintiff has not used the tank, and we may take it that the permission was revoked. At all events, it is revoked now, and was revoked at the time of institution of the suit, and therefore there is no right that the plaintiff can enforce, and the suit must be dismissed with costs.

The 23rd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Fraudulent conveyance—Bona fides—Lis pendens.

Case No. 1706 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 2nd July 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Kooshteah, dated the 27th May 1869.

Nuffur Merdha (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Lall Adhicary (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Pitambur Chuckerbutty* for Appellant.

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Lalit Chunder Sein* for Respondent.

Where a conveyance is effected under a fraudulent arrangement whereby nothing is sold, *bona fides* on the part of the purchaser cannot make a title in his vendee.

The doctrine of *lis pendens* is not applicable to the case of a purchaer at a sale in execution.

Glover, J.—There can be no doubt, I think, that the decision of the Courts below correct.

The plaintiff claims as purchaser from Sreenath Bhuttacharjee, who is alleged to have purchased from Sreenath Sircar and Mussamut Drobo Moyee jointly in 1274.

The defendant claims as purchaser at auction, on the 20th of May 1807, of the rights and interests of Sreenath Sircar, which, he says, extended to the whole of the disputed property, Mussamut Drobo Moyee having no right therein.

The plaintiff, in fact, came into Court to prove Mussamut Drobo Moyee's title, and he succeeded in his favour—that in a suit between Mussamut Drobo Moyee and Sreenath Sircar in July 1867, the Civil Court had decreed to the lady a half share in the property as heiress of her deceased husband, Suroop Sircar.

Both Lower Courts have found that the suit brought by Mussamut Drobo Moyee against Sreenath Sircar was a sham, one got up to protect the latter's property from his creditors; that Drobo Moyee's husband predeceased his father Debee Pershad, and that the widow succeeded to no part of the family-estate; that Sreenath Sircar was the real owner, and that the decree against him was the result of collusion between the two for the express object of defrauding Sreenath's creditors.

The objection taken in special appeal is that the *onus* of proving that Drobo Moyee had no part of the estate, inasmuch as her husband had pre-deceased his father, was on the defendant, and not on the plaintiff.

This objection, I may observe, was not taken in the Court below, nor does it appear to have any force. The defendant is in possession—that seems to be clear; for when Drobo Moyee tried to take possession in execution of her decree, the record shows that she was opposed by the defendant, who was already in possession under his auction-purchase. The plaintiff, who seeks to dispossess this possession, can only do so by showing a better title, and this he can only do by showing that Mussamut Drobo Moyee owned a part of what had passed to the defendant as the rights and interests of Sreenath Sircar. The Judge has gone very fully into the evidence on this point, and I think that the conclusion at which he has arrived is a correct one. In any case, it is a finding of fact on the evidence which could not be interfered with in special appeal.

The second objection is founded entirely on the supposition that Mussamut Drobo Moyee got possession under her decree. This has been found as a fact against the special appellant; indeed it is quite clear that the lady never did succeed in getting possession.

The last point taken is that, conceding for the sake of argument the collusive nature of the transaction between Mussamut Drobo Moyee and Sreenath Sircar, that cannot affect the plaintiff's right, he being a *bonâ-fide* purchaser for value without notice.

The objection is untenable. The Judge has found that the whole arrangement from first to last was tainted with fraud; that Drobo Moyee had, in fact, nothing to sell, and did sell nothing; and the ostensible sale to the plaintiff was a trick on the part of Sreenath Sircar to defraud his creditors of their money. *Bona fides* on the part of the plaintiff, even if we assume it to exist, cannot make a title in his vendor.

I think that the special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

Mitter, J.—I think there is no ground for this special appeal. The question of *onus* does not arise. The Judge has found upon the whole evidence and the conduct of the parties that there was no foundation whatever for the title set up by the plaintiff. The doctrine of *lis pendens* is not applicable to the case of a purchaser at a sale in execution of decree—(Gour Monee *versus* Reid). I dismiss this special appeal with costs.

The 23rd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Res judicata—Estoppel.

Case No. 1797 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Nuddea, dated the 1st August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 30th November 1869.

Nobin Chunder Mojoomdar (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

Mookta Soonduree Dabee and others (Defendants), *Respondents*.

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty* for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar* for Respondents.

S died leaving two nephews (N and G) as his heirs according to Hindoo Law, whereupon one M took possession of the property S had left, alleging herself to be entitled under a will which he had made. G then brought a suit against M for a moiety of the estate, making his brother N (who had refused to join him as co-plaintiff) a defendant in the case. The will being found on the evidence as it then stood to be genuine, the suit was dismissed. N then, as heir of S, sued M and others for his share of the property.

HELD that N was in no way bound by the finding in the former suit in regard to the validity of the will.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a very simple case. One Suroop Chunder Mojoomdar died on the 30th of Srabun 1272, leaving two nephews, Nobin Chunder Mojoomdar and Grish Chunder Mojoomdar, as his heirs according to Hindoo Law. After the death of Suroop Chunder, one Mookta Soonduree took possession of that which had been his property, alleging herself to be entitled to the same under a will made by Suroop Chunder in his lifetime. In the year 1867, Grish Chunder, as one of the heirs of Suroop Chunder, brought his suit against Mookta Soonduree to obtain possession of one moiety of the estate of Suroop Chunder. He made his brother Nobin Chunder, who appears to have refused to join as a co-plaintiff, a defendant in that suit. The case was tried by the Principal Sudder Ameen, who dismissed the suit, finding on the evidence, as it then stood, that the will set up by Mookta Soonduree was genuine, and that, therefore, Grish Chunder had no title to the property.

The present suit was brought on the 22nd June 1869 by Nobin Chunder for his share of the property as heir of Suroop Chunder, against Mookta Soonduree Dabee and others as defendants. The first Court went into the merits of the case, and found that the will was a forgery, and declared that Nobin Chunder was entitled, as heir of Suroop Chunder, to that which he claimed in the suit. On appeal, the Judge was of opinion that the claim of the plaintiff Nobin Chunder was barred by the decision in the former suit brought by his brother Grish Chunder against Mookta Soonduree, in which the validity and genuineness of the alleged will of Suroop Chunder was in issue; and accordingly he reversed the decision of the Court, and dismissed the suit.

From that decision an appeal has b presented to this Court, in support of w Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy has appe on the part of the plaintiff. We think that appeal is well-founded. The pla Nobin Chunder was no party to the brought by his brother Grish Chunder. could not in any manner have availed self of a decree in that suit to enfo claim to the share which he now cl He could not have appealed from that de and we think it perfectly clear that h in no way bound by the findings of Court therein. It would be most unju this were otherwise. Suppose there are brothers interested in equal moieties, as t brothers were, in the property of their cestor. They see reason to doubt the nuineness of a conveyance set up by a third person to the prejudice of their One of the brothers, against the will of other, who thinks that they have not time to sift out the facts of the case thoro ly so as to be able to place them b the Court satisfactorily, rushes into C and takes his chance of a decision as re his share. The one who does not join no advantage from that suit. He ca make use of it to save himself from b barred by limitation, or to enforce rights of his own. He has a perfect to stand by and watch the conduct of litigants in that suit, with a view to a his own rights at the time and in the ma which he shall judge most prudent and venient to himself.

The decision of the Additional J must be reversed, and the case remanded him, who will probably have very little di culty in deciding it on the merits.

Costs of this appeal will follow the resul

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The 23rd March 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

ion 246, Act VIII. of 1859—Default—Small e Courts—Jurisdiction—Mortgage-bond.

Case No. 2000 of 1870.

cial Appeal from a decision passed by e Officiating Judge of Tirhoot, dated the th June 1870, reversing a decision of the bordinate Judge of that District, dated 9th March 1870.

lla Goondur Lall (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

hbeeboonissa and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Sreenath Doss for Appellant.

R. E. Twidale and *Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf* for Respondents.

here an intervenor's application under Section 246, of Civil Procedure, is dismissed on default, the of dismissal is of equal force with a finding on the after investigation.

suit on a mortgage-bond, a Small Cause Court jurisdiction to make a decree providing, on de- payment, for the sale of the immoveable pro- pledged, and a Civil Court has no jurisdiction to the sale in execution of such a decree.

inslie, J.—THE plaintiff in this suit is ng to establish his right under two eyances from Mussamut Bhikhun in ct of a one-anna share of certain pro- y.

the first Court he obtained a decree. n the case was taken on appeal before District Court, the Judge of that Court that, inasmuch as the plaintiff had in, in the course of an execution-suit r Section 246 of the Code of Civil Pro- ure, and had failed in his intervention, had allowed more than 12 months to e before he commenced this suit, he barred by limitation.

n special appeal it has been contended, he first place, that there was no investiga- under Section 246 of the Civil Pro- ure Code; in the second place, that sup- g that there was an investigation under Section, even then limitation would not ly, inasmuch as the plaintiff is actually possession; and thirdly, that the sale under which the defendant claims was held under a decree of the Small Cause Court which was in the form of a mortgage-decree, and therefore one which that Court had no jurisdiction to make, and that the sale consequently was null and void.

As to there having been no investigation, we find that an application was submitted by the plaintiff on the 1st August 1867 under Section 246; that that application was registered, and the petitioner was ordered to produce evidence in support of his case, and the opposite party was called on to reply. On the 25th September of that year, partly with reference to the finding in a similar intervention on behalf of Mussamut Bhikhun, but also because the intervenor had failed to produce any evidence in support of his claim, his application was dismissed. This application having been dismissed on default, the order must be treated as of equal force with a finding on the merits after investigation.

I now come to the next ground. Granting that there was an investigation under Section 246, it is said that, under the ruling in 14 Weekly Reporter, page 367, limitation will still not apply. On examining that case, however, it will be found that there is a very material distinction between it and the present case; because it appears that in that case it was held that there had been no proper adjudication under Section 246 on the question of possession—the only question which could be investigated under that Section. Such investigation as had taken place had been directed to ascertain title, and was held not to be a proper investigation.

But the third ground taken in special appeal appears to us to be good. The decree under which the sale was held, by which the defendant became a purchaser of this property, was a decree of the Small Cause Court in a suit on a mortgage-bond; and the terms of the decree are that the defendant is to pay certain moneys to the plaintiff, or, that is, in default of his payment, the plaintiff is to recover the sum by the sale of the property pledged.

This was a decree which, when transferred to the Civil Court for execution against immoveable property, might have been rejected by the Court under Section 288 of the Code of Civil Procedure. It was not so rejected; but as it is patent on the face of the decree that the Small Cause Court had no jurisdiction to make it, and therefore

that the Civil Court had no jurisdiction to allow any sale to take place under it, I think that we must allow this ground of appeal now, and declare that the sale was made entirely without authority and was a nullity.

Accordingly, we overrule the plea of limitation, and remand the case to the Lower Appellate Court to be tried on the merits with reference to the above remarks.

Paul, J.—I quite concur in this judgment.

The 23rd March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Fraud—Locus penitentiæ.

Case No. 2030 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Shahabad, dated the 30th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 12th March 1870.

Lall Mahomed and another (two of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Bibee Furhutoonissa (Plaintiff) and another (Defendant), *Respondents.*

Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry for Appellant.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Moulvie Mahomed Yusuf* for Respondents.

In a suit for confirmation of possession where it was found that plaintiff had executed a fraudulent mokurruree conveyance under which, however, possession did not pass, but continued with her for three years after which there was some disturbance by the plaintiff's husband of the possession by an Act X. decision:

HELD that, as the intention of the conveyance was not carried out by actual transfer of possession to defendant, there was a *locus penitentiæ* left to plaintiff, who was consequently entitled to ask to be quieted in possession, which had either been prejudicially affected or even invaded by and under the fictitious decision obtained under Act X. by her husband for his own ends, and not by reason of the carrying out of the original fraud.

Paul, J.—BABOO MOHESH CHUNDER CHOWDHRY has, no doubt, ably contended, by the right of the authorities cited by him, that it is not competent to a plaintiff, after having admitted the execution of a deed merely for ulterior purposes, to seek to have it set aside.

It is not necessary to make any comm upon the numerous cases he has cited, cause they appear to me to be distingu able from the present case. No doubt, cases which have been referred to lay d this position, that, if property has pa under a fraudulent conveyance, the C will not ordinarily assist the person em ing the conveyance to recover back the perty by alleging his own fraud; and the parties are *in pari delicto*, the Court assist no one. I am far from saying th possession had passed, I should hold th parties were *in pari delicto*. I should to examine further into the matter b coming to the conclusion that a woman may be supposed to be under the influ of her husband is *in pari delicto* him.

But the facts of this case, as found the Lower Court, show that, after execution of the mokurruree deed (if deed was ever executed), possession did pass to the mokurrureedar, but remained the plaintiff; and that that possession tinued with her for three years subsequen and that recently there has been some turbance of that possession by an Act decision. On the whole, however, the Lo Court concludes that, substantially, plaintiff is still in possession. Under th circumstances, it appears to us that plaintiff is entitled to a decree by w she is either to be confirmed in her pos sion, or to be put into possession, assum she has lost it. Her possession (if she lost it) has been wrested from her, *not* un the mokurruree deed, but under cer fraudulent legal proceedings set on foot the husband for the purpose of carry out some plan of his own.

Therefore, in this case, the substan question between plaintiff and the defend resolves itself into this, namely, did plaintiff transfer the property to the defen ant by, and in consequence of, the conv ance which it is alleged she executed. that subject the findings of the Court bel leave no doubt whatever that she did not tra fer possession of this property by or und the deed which she is alleged to have execut I apprehend that the finding of facts by Lower Courts sufficiently sustains the plain iff's claim to relief in this case, first, becau the Lower Appellate Court does not belie that the deed was actually executed; a secondly, because the Court believes th even if the deed had been executed for so

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inal purpose, that purpose was not ed out by putting the defendant into ession. If the defendant had been put possession, the features of this case d have assumed another aspect; but that intention was not carried into by the defendant being put into pos- n by the plaintiff, I apprehend there is *penitentiæ* left to the plaintiff, in quence of which she is entitled to ask she may be quieted in her possession, has either been prejudicially affected en invaded by and under a fictitious on obtained by her husband for his nds, and not by reason of the carrying the improper purpose she had once ded, and from which, before its comple- she desires to withdraw.

therefore, think that the decision of ower Appellate Court should be affirm- h costs.

nslie, J.—I concur.

The 23rd March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Zur-i-peshgeedar—Money-decree.

Case No. 2032 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated the h June 1870, reversing a decision of Sudder Moonsiff of that District, d the 2nd October 1869.

ouree Singh (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

uzl Hossein (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellant.

srs. R. E. Twidale and *C. Gregory* for Respondent.

ere a zur-i-peshgeedar abandons his right to sion under his lease, and sues to recover the advanced, and obtains a decree which gives him cific remedy against the property leased to him, se must be held to have terminated.

Ainslie, J.—The defendant, who is the special appellant before us, was the son of one Rajroop Singh, who in the year 1840 advanced a sum of money to Sreenam Singh and others on a zur-i-peshgee of a one-anna share of a certain mouzah. Whether Rajroop Singh had obtained possession or not does not appear; but in the year 1857 or 1858, he brought a suit against the mortgagor, claiming the original amount advanced, together with an equal amount as interest, from which it is quite clear that he must have been out of possession for a considerable time. On the 21st July 1858, he obtained a decree, which was a simple money-decree. While that suit was pending, the mortgagor executed two deeds in favor of the plaintiff: one a mokurruree of 5 dams for a consideration of 500 rupees with a reserved rent of 8 annas; and the other a zur-i-peshgee lease of 3 dams. Then, seven years after that, the defendant proceeded with the execution of his decree, and attached and caused to be sold the rights and interests of his judgment-debtor, and he himself became the purchaser. Apparently the ordinary forms of delivery of possession by proclamation were gone through. The next thing that we find is, that some years afterwards, the plaintiff is called upon by the Magistrate to furnish security for keeping the peace in consequence of a quarrel about this land, and he then comes into Court to establish his title under the mokurruree and under zur-i-peshgee lease.

The Lower Appellate Court has given a decree to the plaintiff, holding that this mokurruree and zur-i-peshgee were duly executed in his favor, and are good against the defendant.

The defendant appeals specially, and urges two grounds, first, that his lien still continues upon the property notwithstanding the money decree of 1858; and, second, that the judgment below has dealt with the evidence in such an unsatisfactory way that it ought to be treated as defective in law.

On the first ground, it appears to me that, when the plaintiff abandoned his right to possession under his lease, and instituted a suit to recover the sum that he had advanced, and obtained a decree in that suit, and allowed that decree to be so framed as to give him no specific remedy against the property leased to him, his lien must be held to have terminated.

On the second point, I think that, although the judgment of the Court below is not very satisfactory, still it has in effect disposed of all questions of fact, and we cannot interfere with it in special appeal.

Mr. Gregory, for the respondent, objects under Section 348, Act VIII. of 1859, to the decree of the Lower Appellate Court, on the ground that it dees not award him mesne-profits as claimed in the plaint. We think that the Lower Court intended to give, and that the plaintiff is entitled to get, wassilat for the period claimed in the plaint. Decree will be made accordingly, the special appeal being dismissed with costs.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 24th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Remands—Jurisdiction—Sections 354 to 357, Civil Procedure Code—Boundaries—Identification.

Case No. 1670 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Backergunge, dated the 30th December 1869, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Madareepore, dated the 27th June 1869.

Gooroo Pershad Dutt and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Sreenath Banerjee and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Luleet Chunder Sein* for Appellants.

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Respondents.

Where the Court of first instance decides both on the general merits and the plea of limitation, and the Judge of the Appellate Court considers that the evidence upon the record is not sufficient to allow of a satisfactory judgment, and that he is in a position legally to require further evidence to be taken, he ought to proceed in the manner provided for in Sections 354 to 357 of the Code of Civil Procedure, but has no right to set aside the first Court's decree, and remand the case for re-trial.

In a suit for possession, a general consideration of question of boundaries should not be gone in the spots of land claimed are accurately ascertai

Macpherson, J.—THIS case ought have been remanded as it was by the S dinate Judge. The Subordinate Judg that the Moonsiff dismissed the case on the ground of limitation; and that fore, it was necessary to send the case under Section 351 of Act VIII. of 1 a fresh trial. It is not the fact th Moonsiff dismissed the suit simply ground of limitation. The Moonsi the greatest possible pains with the went to the ground himself, and wrote and careful judgment going fully in case. Of the merits of that judgme far as it finds the facts one way or I do not at present mean to speak; b it is for the Lower Appellate Court to whether the judgment was right, or w it was wrong. But so far as I unde the Moonsiff, he decided against the pl both on the general merits and on th of limitation. That being so, if the S dinate Judge considered that the ev upon the record was not sufficient to him to pronounce a satisfactory jud as contemplated in Section 353 of Act of 1869, and if he considered himself in a position legally to require furthe dence to be taken, he ought to have proc in the manner provided for in Sectio to 357. He had no right to go in th of Section 352, and set aside the decree Moonsiff, and remand the case to b over again by him.

In strictness, probably, we ought to set aside the order of the Lower late Court, and leave matters as they before that order was made. But co ing the length of time which has e and that further evidence has in the time been taken, it appears to me that we direct that the order now appealed be set aside, and that the case be sen to the Lower Appellate Court in ord the original appeal may be heard, we further direct that the appeal shall be ed as if it were one, in which fresh ev had been called for under Section or 355 of the Civil Procedure Co far as regards the new evidence whic been received under the remand. That new evidence is to be treated as upon the record. But in other respec Lower Appellate Court is to deal wi case as if it were now for the first ti

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list of appeals in that Court. The Subordinate Judge will decide it on the materials before him, if he finds that they are cient to enable him to pronounce a satisfy judgment. If he is of opinion that er evidence is still absolutely requisite der to enable him to pronounce a satisfy judgment, and that it can legally be with reference to the provisions of the of Civil Procedure (*see* Sections 351-or if, after going into the case, he that the defendants should have further tunity of putting in evidence to rebut new evidence admitted under the re-order—he may cause further evidence taken: but he must take care that he strictly as the law provides. The Appellate Court will take the case up ce out of its turn, and will deal with subject-matter of each of the three separately (although the evidence ord must be taken as on the record of suit). The Court will consider how each suit the plaintiffs have or have ade out their case, and each suit must alt with on its own merits, and a dis-decision must be given in each. The Appellate Court will bear in mind which seems to have been rather lost of by the Subordinate Judge whose is now under appeal before us, that it the plaintiffs to point out the precise of land for which they are suing, and ere is no use in going into any gen-onsideration of the question of bounda-ntil the precise plots claimed are accu-ascertained. When they have been d out by the plaintiffs, it will then be em to prove their possession within years of these particular plots re-ely, and (if they succeed in proving ossession) their title to them. The burden of proof lies in the first in-on the plaintiffs. It does not appear that there is anything very special in suits which should necessitate such ngthy judgments as the Lower Courts delivered. But the issues, no doubt, e to be treated with accuracy and ion.

e order of the Subordinate Judge is set and the hearing of the appeal is to be ded with by the Lower Appellate t once. The costs which have been ed in this Court will be costs in the and will follow the result of the t in the Lower Court.

Leslie, J.—I concur.

The 24th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Section 119, Act VIII. of 1859—Ex-parte decree —Re-hearing—Appeal.

Case No. 1844 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Sylhet, dated the 17th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 11th March 1870.

Boro Khosiah (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Jata Sirdar and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Anund Gopal Paleet* for Appellant.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondents.

A plaintiff having taken out execution of an *ex-parte* decree, the defendant applied under Section 119, Act VIII. of 1859, to have it set aside, and eventually succeeded. After this, the case came on for hearing, and the suit was dismissed both by the Court of first instance and the Appellate Court. The plaintiff then came up in special appeal, contending that sufficient inquiry had not been made before the application for re-hearing was admitted.

HELD (by Jackson, J., whose opinion prevailed) that it would not be doing justice, which the Court is bound to do in administering the law, to restore an *ex-parte* decree which two Courts had on subsequent trial on the merits found should not be renewed; and that the Moonsiff's order admitting the case to a re-hearing was not open to appeal.

Mookerjee, J.—THE plaintiff in this case sued the defendants for possession of 11 hâts of land with wassilat. The defendants not appearing, the Moonsiff gave an *ex-parte* decree to the plaintiff on the 10th Pous 1274, corresponding to the 24th December 1867. The suit was instituted on the 17th Srabun 1274 or August 1867.

In execution taken out by the plaintiff for costs adjudged in this *ex-parte* decree, certain properties belonging to the debtors were brought to sale, it is alleged in Assar 1276.

The defendants then appeared, and by a petition, dated 8th Bhadro of that year, applied to the Moonsiff under Section 119 of the Procedure Code to set aside the *ex-parte*

decision. They alleged in this petition that they were wholly ignorant of the fact that a suit was instituted against them; that no service of the summons was made on them; and that, although their properties were attached, yet the sale-istahar was not issued, but that nevertheless their properties were sold in Assar 1276.

The Moonsiff fixed a date for the examination of the defendants, but the defendants not having appeared on that date their application under Section 119 was struck off the file on the 18th December 1869, which corresponds to some day in Pous 1276.

The defendants then made a second application on the 23rd of Pous 1276, showing cause for non-attendance, and praying that their application may be restored to the file and adjudicated upon. This application was registered on the 7th January 1870. The Moonsiff then examined the defendants, and, after having heard witnesses to the service of the summons, was of opinion that the summons was not duly served. The Moonsiff thereupon set aside his judgment, and appointed a day for the hearing of the suit. On the case coming for trial, the Court of first instance as well as that of appeal dismissed the plaintiff's suit on the ground that it was not proved to their satisfaction that the defendants had dispossessed plaintiff from his lands; the costs of the defendant were thereupon made payable by the plaintiff.

Dissatisfied with the order of the Courts below, the plaintiff appeals specially, and urges that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction to entertain the application under Section 119, inasmuch as such application ought to have been preferred within 30 days after any process for enforcing the judgment had been executed, which was not done in the present case. Baboo Romesh Chunder admitted that this point was never specifically raised in any of the Courts below; but he contends that, in a petition which was filed by his client in the Moonsiff's Court, it was distinctly stated that the defendants were fully aware of the execution of the process of attachment and sale. He also states that, in the application made by the defendants themselves, they admit that the process of attachment was executed, and that the sale was held in Assar 1276. Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter contends that, therefore, on the defendant's own showing, the application under Section 119 is out of time, having been preferred on the 8th Bhadro following. A decision of the Full Bench of this Court is cited support of this contention, which is to found in page 236 of the 9 Weekly porter. It is contended by the vakeel the respondents that the process mentio in Section 119 must be a *bond-fide* proc but the Moonsiff, as well as the Lower A late Court, has held in this case that was no *bond-fide* process executed. O ferring to the record, we find that th a statement of the defendants to the that the sale of their properties had place in Assar 1276, and that the ap tion under Section 119 was made o 8th Bhadro of that year. We also find there is some sort of admission that properties had been attached in exec though that is not very clear. This a ment must have been an attachment to the sale of the properties; and if the case that the properties of the appli were sold in Assar 1276, the attach must have been of a date at least a before the sale, and therefore very beyond the 30 days allowed by law in tion 119. If it is so, the application probably be an application beyond tim which the Moonsiff could not have acte

The law seems to me to be clear. application to set aside an *ex-parte* dec must be made within "a reasonable not exceeding 30 days after any proce enforcing the judgment has been exec Now, if the plaintiffs, the holders *ex-parte* decree, had actually and executed the process of attachment, th fendant was bound to come within a re able time of the execution of that not exceeding 30 days. The Legi does not say that the application sho made within 30 days of the knowledge judgment-debtors of the execution process for the enforcement of the decree. If, therefore, a process for en the judgment is duly executed, I app that Section 119 requires that the ap tion to set aside the *ex-parte* judgment be preferred within 30 days of the tion of that process, whether the judg debtors were or were not actually aw the execution of such process. If a perty of the judgment-debtor is duly ed, he is presumed to be aware of the ment in execution of which that attac was made. The law requires he should of it, and must come within a reaso time from that attachment; but that ti not to exceed 30 days. Under this vi the law, I am of opinion that, if the pe

of attachment was duly executed; and if the application has not been made within the time limited by the law, the application could not and should not have been entertained by the Moonsiff.

In this case the objection now urged not having been taken in any of the Courts below, there is no clear finding at all as to whether the process of attachment had been executed or not. The case will, therefore, go back to the Court of the Moonsiff. The Moonsiff will lay down an issue as to whether any process to enforce the decree was duly and *bond-fide* executed or not. He will give full opportunity to the parties to adduce any evidence they desire to produce to show whether any process, and more especially a process of attachment, had been duly executed. The present finding of the Moonsiff does not meet the requirements of the case. He simply finds that summons had not been served, and that the plaintiff was not aware of the sale, as it had not taken place at the spot. But whether the summons was served or not, which is a point which affects the merit of the application under Section 119, he is bound to see whether the application is in time, which is a condition precedent to the entertainment of the application itself. I would, therefore, remand the case to the Court of the Moonsiff to try this point, and to decide the case anew according to the result of the inquiry directed. Though we entertain the objection raised for the first time before us, yet, considering that this plea ought to have been raised when the application was made under Section 119, I think the appellant must pay the whole of the costs of the defendants incurred up to this stage of the proceedings.

Jackson, J.—I think that this special appeal should be dismissed. If the appellant was dissatisfied with the decision of the Moonsiff, admitting the case to a re-hearing, he might have raised the question on the appeal to the Judge. He made no allusion to it, and the case having been tried upon the merits both by the Moonsiff and the Appellate Court, it has been found that the plaintiff is not entitled to a decree which he obtained *ex parte*. I think, then, that it is too late now for him to contend that there was not sufficient inquiry made before the application for a re-hearing was admitted. It seems to me that we are bound to administer the law in order to do justice between the parties, and it would not be doing justice to restore an *ex-parte* decree which two Courts have, on a subsequent trial on the merits, found should not be renewed. If the objection which is now raised was a substantial objection, I have no doubt that it would have been raised at the proper time. The Moonsiff's order admitting the case to re-hearing is not open to appeal. It is possible that we may have authority to interfere with it under our extraordinary powers of superintendence, though I am not quite certain even of that. It is not an authority which we are obliged to exercise, and I am of opinion that it would not be for the ends of justice that we should exercise it in this case. The appellant is entitled to a special appeal from the decision of the Judge. This is not any ground of appeal against the decision of the Judge; and though it may be an appeal against an alleged irregularity in the proceedings of the Moonsiff, it cannot be said to be one which affected the merits of the case.

I would dismiss this appeal with costs.

The 24th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Agency—Authority (to buy and sell)—Consent.

Case No. 1874 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 29th June 1870, modifying a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 18th September 1869.

Goluck Chunder Chowdhry (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Kanto Pershad Hazaree (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. C. Piffard and *Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee* for Appellant.

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Aukhil Chunder Sein* for Respondent.

An authority granted to an agent to purchase does not imply authority to sell; and the mere fact of the principal not questioning his agent's right to sell is no proof that he consents to the latter's exercising such right.

Jackson, J.—In this case the plaintiff, Kanto Pershad Hazaree, has sued the defendant, Goluck Chunder Chowdhry, for the price of an elephant which he alleges that he sold to the defendant nearly three years previous to the institution of the suit. The answer of the defendant is that he did purchase the elephant, but that he never obtained delivery of it; that it remained with the plaintiff, and still is with the plaintiff. This fact is admitted by the plaintiff, who states that Goluck Chunder Chowdhry sold the elephant to Gobind Chunder Surmah for one Kalee Narain Roy, and that he exchanged another elephant with Kalee Narain Roy for this elephant. The defendant denies that he ever received the elephant, or sold it to Gobind Chunder Surmah. Both the Lower Courts have found that the sale took place, and the Judge is of opinion that there is direct evidence of the sale by Goluck Chunder Chowdhry to the agent of Kalee Narain Roy; and though the Judge admits that that evidence goes only to show that Goluck Chunder's agent effected the sale, he is of opinion that the fact of the defendant having allowed three years to elapse before questioning the right of the agent to sell is proof that he consented to the sale.

The special appeal to this Court is that there is no evidence of any actual delivery of the elephant, and no evidence of any consent to the sale by Goluck Chunder to the agent of Kalee Narain Roy. In trying these questions, we have been obliged to go through the whole of the evidence in the case, and we are satisfied that upon both points there is a total absence of all proof. The evidence of the defendant's servants, which is unimpeached by any evidence on the other side, is that the defendant's agent, Gobind Nundee, purchased the elephant from Kanto Pershad Hazaree. He also purchased another elephant which the defendant's servants took to their master's house, but this elephant was taken back to the premises of Kanto Pershad Hazaree. And it seems to be admitted on all hands that from that time to this, a period of three years, the elephant has remained with Kanto Pershad Hazaree, and during that time it is not shown that any demand for its price has been made on the defendant. Then the plaintiff has filed with the record a memorandum written to him by Gobind Chunder Surmah, which alludes to this elephant as having been obtained for the plaintiff from Goluck Chunder Chowdhry. Gobind Chunder Surmah has been examined, and he denies that he effected any exchange with the plaintiff for his master Kalee Narain Roy. He says that he bought another elep from the plaintiff for Kalee Narain Ro Rupees 1,000. He says also that he b this elephant now in dispute from G Chunder Chowdhry's mooktear, and th sold it to the plaintiff. His own letter p that he did not buy it himself, but that h tained it for the plaintiff. This re-pur for the plaintiff was effected within a few of the purchase by the defendant. And, any circumstances, the plaintiff would o entitled to any difference of price, if a agreed upon; but there is nothing to that there was an agreement for any rial difference. Even then, if we were fied that Goluck Chunder Chowdhry r the elephant, the above considerations lead us to dismiss the present prepo claim. But it is also quite clear that is no evidence at all that Goluck Ch Chowdhry re-sold the elephant. G Chunder Surmah does not depose th dealt in the matter of the purchase Goluck Chunder, but with Gobind N who had purchased for Goluck Ch Now, though Gobind Nundee may have authority to purchase, it does not f that he had authority to sell, and there i evidence of any such authority or any sequent consent. The mere fact that defendant did not question his right to is no proof that he consented to it. T sale was, in fact, to the plaintiff, and very possible that the defendant did n ject to that. The result was to canc original sale to the defendant. The p iff is not entitled, under these circumst to recover the price of the elephant, he has, since the sale, retained in his possession; and the decision of the C giving the plaintiff a decree for its must be set aside, and the plaintiff's dismissed to that extent.

There was also a claim in this suit f value of the second elephant which was livered to the defendant. The Judge given the defendant a set-off on accou certain money which, he finds, was d the defendant from the plaintiff on acc of the profits of the elephant-captu expedition, in which these disputed elep were captured, and in which both pla and defendant were partners. It is said, on special appeal, that a full inquiry this question has not been made. The dence offered by both parties upon it considered, and a decision arrived at on evidence. We think we ought not to in fere on this point.

d

e costs will be calculated according to proportion decreed and dismissed, both s Court and the Lower Court.

kerjee, J.—I concur in dismissing it of the plaintiff, as far as the claim to koomkee" or female elephant is con- I am not satisfied on the evidence, has been gone through at great length, e plaintiff had ever delivered the ani- the purchaser Goluck Chunder Chow- e that Goluck Chunder Chowdhry, after possession of it, sold it to Gobind rjee. The elephant is still in the pos- of the plaintiff, and, I think, he has no keep the animal, and also demand its from the defendant. His silence for years throws the greatest suspicion on e; the omission of the defendant to the animal is accountable. True, he t got the article he purchased, but he ot called to pay, and therefore he have waited all this time. But the ff's case is that he not only sold the to the defendant, but actually gave livery of it; no reason is shown for his lence.

The 25th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

older's rights — Sale for arrears — Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1855.

Case No. 2397 of 1870.

Appeal from a decision passed by the rdinate Judge of Midnapore, dated 6th August 1870, reversing a decision e Moonsiff of Nimal, dated the 26th y 1869.

Narain Giree (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Churn Giree (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Respondent.

urchaser of a partnership in a tenure, in other of a shareholder's rights, acquires no right to ession against a person who buys the tenure n sold for arrears under Act VIII. (B. C.) of

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this case purchased at an auction-sale held in execution of decree Mullica Daye's right, title, and interest in 8 beegahs odd cottahs of land. He says that he got possession, and paid the back rent due to the ijaradar from the former tenant.

The farmer afterwards brought a suit against Mullica Daye for arrears of rent, alleged to be due for the years 1271-1272 and part of 1273, got a decree, and sold the tenure under Act VIII. of 1865, B. C. The defendant was the purchaser, and got possession turning the plaintiff out.

The plaintiff sues to recover possession on the ground of his purchase, and on the allegation that the rent-decree was collusively obtained.

The Moonsiff dismissed the suit, holding that there was no proof whatever of collusion either between the farmer and the defaulting ryot, or between either of them and the auction-purchaser; that the ijaradar had never recognized the plaintiff as his tenant, and never received rent from him, and was not, therefore, bound to recognize his purchase of the land; that the sale under Act VIII. of 1865 passed the tenure to the defendant.

The Subordinate Judge, on appeal, reversed this decision, on the ground that a subsequent sale by a Revenue Court could not invalidate a prior one by a Civil Court (Tirthanund Thakoor, appellant, 13 Weekly Reporter, p. 449), and that the farmer, by receiving from the plaintiff rent for a period previous to his dispossession, for the years 1274-75 that is, had recognized him as his tenant. The Subordinate Judge also found that the rent-suit brought against Mullica Daye was collusive.

It is contended in special appeal:—

(1.) That there is no evidence to show that the payments of rent made by the plaintiff in 1274 and 1275 extinguished the claim for the back rents of 1271-1272 and 1273, and that the Subordinate Judge's conclusion as to the fraudulent nature of the rent-suit is altogether groundless: and

(2.) That the plaintiff, having only purchased Mullica Daye's right and interest in a portion of a tenure, cannot resist the right of an auction-purchaser under Act VIII. of 1865, B. C., which comprehended the tenures itself.

(1.) With regard to the payments said to have been made by the plaintiff to the ijaradar in 1274 and 1275, and which the Subordinate Judge has taken as showing that "there existed no arrears on account of "the years for which the suit had been insti-"tuted in the Revenue Court," we find that one is dated the 23rd Srabun 1274, and is for Rupees 3-5, and the other the 2nd Jyet 1275, and is for Rupees 8-9. Now, taking the Subordinate Judge's finding as to the genuineness of these documents (a finding opposed to that of the first Court) as one with which we cannot interfere, what after all do the receipts prove? They prove that, during the years in question, the plaintiff paid an aggregate sum of Rupees 12-13 on account of back-rent. No particular year is mentioned, the word used is the general one "bakya." Now, it is quite clear that this payment could not have settled the arrears for 1271-72 and part of 1273, inasmuch as, if we put aside the evidence of the rent-decree, the annual rent payable was on the plaintiff's own showing 9 rupees. So that, admitting everything in the plaintiff's favor, the back-rents could not, as supposed by the Subordinate Judge, have been cleared off by the payment of Rupees 12-13; and as this is the only ground on which the Subordinate Judge has decided that the rent-suit was conclusive, we should be quite justified in saying that the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in reversing the decision of the Moonsiff on this point.

We may remark here that the record shows that, at the time the rent-suit was brought, the plaintiff had not paid the Rupees 12-13 at all. The date of institution of suit and the dates of the dakhillas show this very clearly. So that it cannot be said that the suit for rent was a false one. That rent is shown by the plaintiff's own documents to have been due when the suit was brought.

Then as to the effect of the prior sale at auction to the plaintiff. The decision in Tirthanund Thakoor *versus* Pureshnund Jha, 13 Weekly Reporter, p. 449, quoted by the Subordinate Judge, supposes that what was sold by the Civil Court was a tenure—an entire estate—and on that supposition, and on the fact that the sale was not in any way tainted with fraud, it laid down that the *same* property could not be re-sold in execution of a decree for arrears of rent against the former tenant.

Now, in this case the Civil Court sold, not Mullica Daye's right in the tenure, which was afterwards put up and sold by the venue Court under Act VIII. of 1865, but her rights in 8 beegahs 14 cott that tenure, the defendant's purchase of the tenure itself (in the terms of the which (as is stated, and not denied any on the record) consisted of 23 be The bynamah shows that these 8 were situated in several distinct plots two separate mouzahs; and all that chaser of Mullica's rights, as it seem bought was a partnership in the ent ure of 23 beegahs to the extent of 8 14 cottahs. He became, in other w shareholder in the tenure.

Now, being in this position, the onl for him to have done when the rent-s brought against Mullica Daye for arr rent was to have paid up those arrea then to have sued his co-sharer for co tion. His purchase did not give hi thing more than this privilege, and c does not give him a right to retain pos against a person who bought the ten self.

The Subordinate Judge's finding did pay up those arrears appears to have been passed in the teeth of the ed evidence, and to be, therefore, an finding; and that being so, there is no whatever for supposing the suit for have been collusive.

The decision of the Subordinate must be reversed, and that of the M restored with all costs on the spec spondent.

The 25th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. *Judges.*

Transfer of intermediate tenures—A ledgment by landlord—Division of r X. of 1859.

Case No. 2454 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision pa the Officiating Judge of East Bu dated the 24th August 1870, reve decision of the Moonsiff of Maho dated the 22nd April 1870.

W. O. Allender, General Manager Land Mortgage Bank of India (Defe *Appellant,*

versus

Dwarkanath Roy and others (Plaint *Respondents.*

Baboo Juggodanund Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Kalee Prosunno Dutt for Respondent.

e rent is recovered without objection by succes- llords from the transferree of an intermediate rom the date of transfer, such receipt acts as a complete acknowledgment by the proprietor accepts the new tenant in the place of the old

rovision of Act X. of 1859, which requires that greement as to division or distribution of rent e in writing, applies only to division or distribu- de after the Act came into operation.

wer, J.—THE circumstances of this re as follow :—

Soondur Napit had a tenure consist- 3 beegahs 10 cottahs cultivated, and hs bastoo land, for which he paid to mindar, Mr. Elias, sicca Rupees 2-15 l rent.

Falgoon 1255, he sold the 3 beegahs ttahs to Ram Narain with a rent of Rupees 2-3, retaining the bastoo land rent of 12 annas himself.

ere was another tenure owned by one o Churn of 10 cottahs at a rent of 7. , which likewise passed by sale to Ram n in 1260. With this land, however, ve nothing to do in this special appeal.

Ram Narain's death, his son Nubo he entire holding to Mussamut Bhugo- Debia on the 8th of Chyet 1272.

e zemindar, Mr. Elias, gave a putnee estate to Chunder Kant in 1266, and ghts were in 1273 transferred to the Mortgage Bank.

ntly after becoming proprietor, the brought a suit against Ram Soondur, gistered tenant, for arrears of rent due e years 1272, 1273, and 1274, and ob- d a decree in execution of which the e was sold.

e plaintiffs in this case, purchasers of holding of Ram Soondur, sue to set the revenue-sale on the ground that transfer had been recognized by the ietor, who had taken rent from the hasers ever since the date of the sale.

e defendant Bank contends that, as the was not notified in the way authorized law, no registry of the new transferree being made in his serishtah, he was not bound to recognize any tenant but Ram Soondur, or to take rent from any other person. He also contends that the amount deposited in the Collector's Court by the plaintiffs was not the whole amount of rent due on the holding, and that he was not bound to take it.

The Moonsiff found that the zemindar had, by receiving rent from the plaintiffs from Falgoon 1255 up to the year 1272, acknowledged them as his tenants for the holding, and that the receipts given by him showed that he was aware of, and acquiesced in, the sale made by Ram Soondur. He also found that the plaintiffs had deposited the rent due for 1273 in the Collector's treasury.

But he considered, on the other hand, that the zemindar was not bound to take out this money from the Collectorate, the plaintiffs not being the "recognized" tenants in the terms of Section 5, Act VI. of 1862, B. C., and not even stating facts which would have enabled the zemindar to know on whose account the money was deposited.

On appeal, the Judge concurred with the Moonsiff as to the recognition by the zemindar, but held also that, under the circumstances, the plaintiffs were entitled to deposit their rent in the Collectorate, and that the defendant Bank ought to have taken it therefrom (he having due notice of the deposit), and not to have brought a suit under Act X. of 1859. The Judge held, moreover, that the plaintiff's tenure was a mere jotedaree holding, the transfer of which it was not under Section 27 of Act X. necessary to register in the zemindar's serishtah.

He decided that the plaintiffs had proved their right to the tenure ; that the Act X. suit was collusive ; and that the sale under it should be set aside.

It is contended in special appeal :—

(1.) That the Judge was wrong in holding that the tenure was one not requiring registration.

(2.) That not being registered, the zemindar was not bound to recognize the alleged transfer, but was justified in suing the original tenant, and (3) That in any case the defendant was not bound to accept the money deposited by the plaintiffs, that not being the full amount of rent

due on the holding, but only the plaintiff's share thereof.

With regard to the first objection, the Judge has found as a fact that the holding was a ryotee one, and from the very small size of it, 3 beegahs 13 cottahs, it can hardly have been an intermediate tenure held between the zemindar and the actual cultivator, as provided for by Section 27 of Act X. of 1859. Nothing has been shown us in support of the assertion that the holding was an intermediate one, and everything is against such a supposition.

But supposing for the sake of argument that it was an intermediate tenure, and that, under the law as it stood when this suit was brought, registration of transfer was necessary, has it not, as a matter of fact, been found that the spirit of the Act has been complied with, and that the zemindar for the time being recognized the transfer and its accompanying changes from the very day on which that transfer was made? It is not denied that Mr. Elias, the zemindar at the time in question, received rent from the transferree from the date of the transfer, nor that his successor did the same thing; so that, for a period of 18 years, the plaintiffs have paid their rent as for a portion of the holding, which had once been Ram Soondur's without the slightest objection on the part of their landlords. This, it appears to me, acts as a full and complete acknowledgment by the proprietor of the estate that he accepted the new tenant in the place of the old one for a particular share of the rent previously paid. The words of the law in the latter part of Section 27 have been much relied on, and it has been argued from them that, even if the transfer of a portion of Ram Soondur's jote to Ram Narain be held to have been acknowledged and permitted by the zemindars, no agreement on their part to divide or distribute the rent would be binding, unless made in writing. But this supposes that such division or distribution was made after Act X. came into operation. Before the passing of that Act, there was no such provision of law.

If the plaintiffs' case were to be governed by the latter part of Section 27 of Act X., then I should undoubtedly hold that the landlord would not be bound to take anything less than the full amount of rent due upon the entire holding, and that in this case the defendant Bank would have been fully justified in refusing to cept the deposit of the plaintiff's of the rent made in the Collectorate, that he had every right to recover as in a suit for rent.

But as I understand the evidence, I that, long years before the Bank becam owner of this putnee estate, there had a partition of Ram Soondur's holdin a transfer of part of it to Ram Narain that both partition and transfer had recognized at the time and since for by the proprietors of the estate.

It is not denied that the Bank higher rights than the other putneedar cannot, therefore, in my opinion, ha greater privileges.

These remarks appear to dispose second and third objections.

I would uphold the decision of the Appellate Court, and dismiss the appeal with costs.

Kemp, J.—I concur.

The 27th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onook Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Execution—Manager—Section 243, Act of 1859.

Case No. 5 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order by the Subordinate Judge of Tipp dated the 17th December 1870.

Mohinee Mohun Doss and anoth (Judgment-debtors), *Appellants,*

versus

Ram Kant Chowdhry and another (D holders), *Respondents.*

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Nuln Chunder Sein* for Appellants.

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Respondents.

A Court executing a decree was held to have justified in refusing to appoint a manager for alienation property belonging to the judgment-debtor, who would have taken 20 years to pay off the debt from profits of the property. But the High Court saw no jection to the appointment of a manager to dispose portions of the property by sale, mortgage, and otherwise, under Section 243, Code of Civil Procedure, debt could thereby be cleared off in 6 months.

kson, J.—THE decree-holder in this has obtained a decree against the ent-debtor to the amount of 37,000 . On suing out execution of his , the judgment-creditor applied to and sell certain properties belonging judgment-debtor. The judgment- thereupon applied to the Subor- Judge of Tipperah, before whom ceedings were pending, asking that a er might be appointed under Section ct VIII. of 1859, and added that he illing to place all the estates in his ion under the manager, in order that anager might recover from them mount of the decree. An inquiry hereupon instituted as to the profits d from these properties; and Mr. De- y, who was appointed to make the es, gave his opinion that a sum of rupees was the annual receipt of om these estates. The Subordinate says that, as the debt would not be ed in 6 years, the application must ected.

ore us the application has not been ted solely to the question of allowing rt manager to manage the properties, e have been asked to delay the pre- le by the Court, in order that the manager may take measures to sell portions of the property, and give ges and mokurruree leases of other s; that by these means a probably price may be obtained than by selling perty on sight at public auction by the .

think that the Subordinate Judge ght in refusing to appoint a manager nage the whole property until the was liquidated, because it would ap- after deducting the expenses for the dant and the Government revenue, tual amount of assets which would bly be recovered would be sufficient to off only the interest of the total sum sum of about 2,000 rupees per annum e principal of the debt. It would, ore, take nearly 20 years before the would be paid off. But we see no to reject the petition of the applicant e Court manager may be appointed to d mortgage, and otherwise dispose of, portions of the property, and thereby the amount of the debt. If, with sistance of the judgment-debtor, the t manager can effect this within six months, these estates may be placed under the manager for that purpose for that period. If within six months the whole debt can be cleared off, the decree may be considered to have been realized with sufficient expedition, and it may be to the benefit of both the parties. We see no reason to interfere with the decision of the Subordinate Judge, but we think that the Subordinate Judge should give effect to this order, and appoint a manager to act accordingly. The manager will dispose of some portions of these properties by selling, mortgaging, and otherwise dealing with them under Section 243. The vakeel for the opposite side does not object to this arrangement; and it seems to us to be a fair and proper one. If at the end of six months the whole debt has not been realized, or if, in the meanwhile, proper measures have not been taken to carry out the order, the Subordinate Judge will pass fresh orders on the case.

We think that the costs of these proceedings should be costs in the cause, and should be paid by the judgment-debtors.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 27th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Documentary evidence—Mistakes of Court's officers.

Case No. 213 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 15th August 1870.

Ram Runjun Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Anund Coomar Mookerjee and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Baboos Kishen Succa Mookerjee and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Respondents.

A Civil Court is bound to receive as evidence authenticated documents named in the plaint and filed by the plaintiff's pleader on the day appointed for fixing issues, even though, through inadvertence of the amlah, they were not made part of the record.

Kemp, J.—THIS is a suit on the part of the plaintiff for contribution. It appears that the plaintiff, formerly a ward of Court, and who of late has come of age, sues a number of defendants, against some of whom a decree has been passed for contribution.

None of the defendants appear to have disputed the amount of jumma payable by the plaintiff. What they seem to have contended is, that they have paid in more on account of their share than the plaintiff has given them credit for.

The Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom found that the plaintiff has not proved even that he has paid the amount due on his own share, much less any amount due on the shares of his co-sharers, the defendants. He, therefore, dismissed the plaintiff's claim, with the exception of certain sums which he decrees against the defendants Nos. 6 and 7, 11 and 12, and No. 17; the result of the decree of the Lower Court being that the plaintiff gets a decree for a sum of Rs. 1,387 odd annas, out of Rs. 5,706 2 annas 3¼ claimed. The Subordinate Judge says that the plaintiff has failed to prove that he has paid the Government revenue in respect of the shares of the defendants, his co-sharers, over and above that due on account of his own share.

In appeal, the second ground of appeal only has been urged upon the Court, namely, that the plaintiff, according to the practice of the sheristah of the Court below, filed certain "sehah" papers, or transfer-papers, authenticated copies of which he had obtained from the Collector's office, which proved the payments made on his behalf on account of the Government revenue of the joint estate, Lot Koondheet Korya, as alleged in the plaint; that these exhibits were not made part of the record through the inadvertence of the Amlah, but mislaid in the record-room in which they were afterwards found; that these documents would have proved the plaintiff's case, and therefore, he submits, that they ought to be allowed to be received in evidence.

Now, it is clear that with the plaint a petition was filed to the effect that a certain number of challans are put in, and that copies of the "sehah" papers had been applied for from the Collectorate, and would be put in when received. We have the evidence of Dwarkanath Baboo, the pleader of the plaintiff below, to the effect that, on the 30th April last, the day on which the issues were to be fixed, he did receive from the plaintiff a petition and list of these "sehahs" to file. There is a petition on the record which bears the nature of the aforesaid Baboo; and the "sehah" papers all bear his initials, and dated 30th April with one exception. It true that there was an inquiry made whether the plaintiff's mookhtear had not smuggled these documents in sherishta, or whether they were really ing; and the result was that the Subo Judge sent the mookhtear to the Fou Court on a charge of criminal trespass. charge, however, fell to the ground, mookhtear was acquitted.

It appears to us that these papers to have been received by the Subo Judge. They are authenticated copie the Collectorate records; and if the shown therein have been transferred the account of the plaintiff, when h a minor, to payments on account of th nue of the estate, and these payments aggregate are more than the plaintiff have to pay for his own share in the the Lower Court is bound to inquir this point, and decide the case afresh.

We, therefore, remand the case Subordinate Judge. He will receive papers and re-decide the case with ref to the defendants Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 20.

His decision with reference to the defendants, against whom a decree ha passed, will stand.

Costs to follow the result with ref to the defendants whose case has be manded.

The 27th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onoo Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Possession—Succession—Hindoo L

Case No. 1378 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pas the Subordinate Judge of Tipperah, the 21st May 1870, affirming a deci the Moonsiff of Nassirnuggur, dat 28th July 1869.

Raj Chunder Burmun (Defendant) *Appellant.*

versus

Rama Kant Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff) *Respondent.*

b

boos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Appellant.

o Rajendro Nath Bose for Respondent.

ere a plaintiff sues for possession as heir of his if it be proved that the uncle left daughters d under the Hindoo Law to succeed to his pro- plaintiff would not be entitled to a decree, even ndant were in wrongful possession of the shares daughters.

okerjee, J.—THE plaintiff instituted it for possession of 8 kanees and odd hs of land on the allegation that his was the owner of a moiety of this and that his father's cousin, one Radha was the owner of the other moiety; the plaintiff's father died in 1255, and usin of his father died in Assin 1256, g no other person but him as their heir; and that the plaintiff, thus be- g the owner of this property, was dis- ssed in 1258 by the defendant. The iff also stated in his plaint that, inas- as he was born in Magh 1255, and minor up to the 13th Magh 1273, the instituted on the 20th Magh 1275 was me.

he defendant raised the plea of limita- contending that the date of the birth laintiff in 1255 as given in the plaint lse, but that plaintiff was really born 252. The defendant thus contended the plaintiff being born in 1252, and he eing a zemindar, and therefore entitled to 15 years' minority, his time for ing this action expired in 1269, not g sued within 3 years of his attaining rity. As regards the amount of land ed by the plaintiff, the defendant con- ed that 4 kanees 8 gundahs of land sued belonged to the plaintiff's father and e; that his father conveyed his share is cousin, Radha Kant, and that thus a Kant was the holder and owner of whole of the 4 kanees 8 gundahs of ; that Radha Kant having by a dispo- in his lifetime made over this pro- y to his two daughters, the defendant, as chaser from those two daughters, is right- entitled to, and is in possession of, the e. It was further contended that, the ntiff's father, during his lifetime, having en away to one Nobin Chunder 12 gun- 1 cowree and 1 krant of the land held by , his father's share was only 3 krants 16 ndahs. As regards the remainder of the d claimed, the defendant denied that it belonged to the plaintiff's father or to uncle; he said he purchased it from other party.

The first Court gave the plaintiff a decree for the lands sued for after deducting 8 gundahs 1 cowree, which it found the plaintiff's father had given away to Nobin. The defendant appealed, and the Subordinate Judge has confirmed the decision of the Court of first instance.

On the point of limitation the Subordinate Judge says: "On the completion of the "18th year, a Hindoo attains his majority; "therefore, according to defendant's own "showing, plaintiff is in time."

But it appears that the Subordinate Judge is evidently in error in his calculation, for the case of the plaintiff is that he was born in 1255. If that is correct, of course, he is in time. But the defendant's case is that he was born in 1852. If that is correct, plaintiff is barred, even if 18 years are given to him as the period after which he would attain his majority, the suit having been instituted in 1275. We think, therefore, that on this point the Subordinate Judge has committed a mistake, and that he ought to have found from the evidence in this case whether the date given by the plaintiff or that given by the defendant was the correct date of the birth of the plaintiff.

As regards the claim of the plaintiff over and above the 3 kanees 17 gundahs admitted by the defendant to have once belonged to the plaintiff's family, there appears to be no adjudication whatever by the Subordinate Judge. He nowhere finds how the plaintiff is entitled to it. The only point he seems to have decided is that the kobalah of the 2nd Bysack 1255 has not been proved to his satisfaction. That is a kobalah by which the plaintiff's father is said to have conveyed his half share of 3 kanees 16 gundahs to his cousin, Radha Kant. But even if that is not proved, it does not assist the plaintiff in recovering the entire amount of land decreed to him. The plaintiff ought to prove what was the amount of land of which his father and his uncle were the owners; whether it was 3 kanees 16 gundahs as admitted by the defendant, or 8 kanees 17 gundahs as alleged by the plaintiff.

Then, it appears that the defendants based their title upon two kobalahs said to have been executed by two daughters of Radha Kant; while the plaintiff's case is that Radha Kant died leaving only a childless widowed daughter, and that the plaintiff is the sole heir, and therefore he is entitled to succeed to his uncle's property. We do not find that the

Subordinate Judge has in any way disposed of this point, namely, whether, according to the plaintiff, his uncle Radha Kant died leaving a childless widowed daughter, and therefore the plaintiff was the heir, or, according to the defendant, that he left two daughters who succeeded him, and consequently plaintiff was not an heir of his uncle. The plaintiff, we think, is bound to prove his statements as to how he came to be entitled to 8 kanees 17 gundahs claimed by him. The Subordinate Judge says: "The kobalahs of the daughters of Radha Kant "have not been registered either, and it "is not likely that these females would "have sold their lands to a stranger like the "appellant." But whether the daughters really conveyed their inheritance to the defendants or not was not the first question to try. The question which should have been tried first, and which the Subordinate Judge has utterly omitted to decide, was whether the plaintiff, under the peculiar circumstances alleged by him, was the heir of his uncle. This point was a material point in the case, for if it be proved that the uncle, Radha Kant, left a daughter or two daughters entitled under the Hindoo Law to succeed to his property, the plaintiff would not be the person who would succeed in this action, as far as the share of the uncle is concerned, even if the defendant was in wrongful possession of the share of the daughters of Radha Kant.

We think, therefore, that this case should go back to the Subordinate Judge to be retried by him with reference to the remarks made above.

Costs of this appeal will abide the result.

I would take this opportunity of calling the attention of the Subordinate Judge to the clear provisions of Section 359 of the Code of Civil Procedure. That law requires that the Appellate Court shall in its judgment state the point or points for determination, and record its reasons for the decision of those points. The judgment of this Judge are always peculiarly meagre, and seldom contain reasons for his decision. In this case the Subordinate Judge does not at all state how, "according to the defendant's own showing, plaintiff is in time." He himself, when summing up the defendant's contention on the plea of limitation, says the defendants plead that plaintiff was born in 1352, and that he should have sued within 1269, and, not having sued within that period, is barred by limitation.

Then, as to the merits of the case, several objections, evidently of a valid nature, were pressed both before the Court of first instance as well as before him. It was objected that plaintiff was not the heir of his uncle, and therefore is not entitled to claim that share. This objection is not at all noticed by the Subordinate Judge, and he gives no decision on it. There is also no adjudication as to the plea that plaintiff is not entitled to a decree for the whole of the land claimed by him, inasmuch as that never belonged either to plaintiff's father, or to his uncle in right of whom the present suit is instituted. These omissions necessitate our remanding the case to him for a proper decision, which entails a great deal of trouble and expense to the parties. But if the Subordinate Judge had carefully recorded the points raised before him for determination, and determined them on the evidence, we could have finally disposed of them here in special appeal, applying the law to the facts found.

Jackson, J.—I quite concur in the remand of this case.

The 28th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Form of decree—Section 189, Act VIII., 1859.

Case No. 2075 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 10th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Durbhangah, dated the 12th May 1870.

Purmessuree Dutt Jha (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Joynath Thakoor (Plaintiff), *Respondent*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Respondent.

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A copy of the judgment with the schedule of costs appended does not constitute a proper decree such as is required under Section 189, Code of Civil Procedure.

Jackson, J.—THE special appellant in this case was no party to the suit as originally brought. It was a suit by Joynath Thakoor against Kumloo Roy, and the object of this suit was to have it declared that certain property must be sold under a bond-debt.

Upon this the present appellant by a petition intervened, alleging that he had purchased the property from the defendants, and that, with the help of an old stamp, plaintiff had fabricated the bond to get the property for himself, having inserted in the bond a date anterior to that of the appellant's purchase. On this petition he was made a defendant. The suit was at first dismissed by the first Court; but, on appeal, the Judge reversed that decision, and, as he says, decreed the appeal.

The intervenor appeals specially to this Court.

The decision of the Judge, I am bound to say, was not very satisfactory. The reasons which he assigns are of the least possible value; but they certainly amount to a decision on the facts; and if the intervenor had been properly a party to the suit, it is difficult to say how we could have set it aside in his favor. The intervenor was not a party interested in the subject-matter and likely to be affected by the result of the suit. It was, therefore, irregular to make him a party, plaintiff having asked for no relief against him. And therefore the decree of the Court below as against him must be set aside, and the special appellant's name erased from the record as defendant.

It is proper to add that no separate decree has been drawn up by the Lower Appellate Court. What has happened in this instance is that a copy of the judgment has been prepared with the schedule of costs appended to it, and no proper decree has been drawn up as required by Section 189 of Act VIII. of 1859. The Judge is directed to draw up a proper decree in this case as between the plaintiff and defendants. He will also take care that, in future cases, the proper decree is drawn up.

The special appellant having of his own accord intervened, he must bear the costs of this appeal and of all proceedings which have resulted from his intervention.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 28th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Sections 230 and 231, Act VIII., 1859—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2220 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Furreedpore, dated the 4th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 13th December 1869.

Mussamut Ehsan Khatoon (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ramnath Sein Lushkur (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Luleet Chunder Sein for Respondent.

When an application under Section 230, Code of Civil Procedure, has been registered as a suit, the Court is bound to investigate it as an ordinary regular suit, and to try, not only the question of possession, but also that of title, and its decision will be final and complete for both purposes.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case the plaintiff applied under Section 230, Act VIII. of 1859, on the allegation that the defendant, Ramnath Lushkur, who had recovered a decree against Gholam Kadir Chowdhry, had, in execution of that decree, dispossessed the plaintiff from his land. This application appears to have been numbered and registered in the register of suits, and issues were framed as in an ordinary civil suit for possession of land. At the time of the hearing of the case, however, it appears that the Moonsiff fixed the following new issues:—

"Whether the plaintiff was in *bond-fide* "possession of the disputed property; if so, "whether she can derive any benefit under "Section 230?" The Moonsiff tried this single issue, and, coming to the conclusion that the plaintiff was not in actual possession, dismissed the suit, it is said, "in the shape of non-suit."

Subordinate Judge has in any way disposed of this point, namely, whether, according to the plaintiff, his uncle Radha Kant died leaving a childless widowed daughter, and therefore the plaintiff was the heir, or, according to the defendant, that he left two daughters who succeeded him, and consequently plaintiff was not an heir of his uncle. The plaintiff, we think, is bound to prove his statements as to how he came to be entitled to 8 kanees 17 gundahs claimed by him. The Subordinate Judge says: "The koba-"lahs of the daughters of Radha Kant "have not been registered either, and it "is not likely that these females would "have sold their lands to a stranger like the "appellant." But whether the daughters really conveyed their inheritance to the defendants or not was not the first question to try. The question which should have been tried first, and which the Subordinate Judge has utterly omitted to decide, was whether the plaintiff, under the peculiar circumstances alleged by him, was the heir of his uncle. This point was a material point in the case, for if it be proved that the uncle, Radha Kant, left a daughter or two daughters entitled under the Hindoo Law to succeed to his property, the plaintiff would not be the person who would succeed in this action, as far as the share of the uncle is concerned, even if the defendant was in wrongful possession of the share of the daughters of Radha Kant.

We think, therefore, that this case should go back to the Subordinate Judge to be retried by him with reference to the remarks made above.

Costs of this appeal will abide the result.

I would take this opportunity of calling the attention of the Subordinate Judge to the clear provisions of Section 359 of the Code of Civil Procedure. That law requires that the Appellate Court shall in its judgment state the point or points for determination, and record its reasons for the decision of those points. The judgment of this Judge are always peculiarly meagre, and seldom contain reasons for his decision. In this case the Subordinate Judge does not at all state how, "according to the defendant's own showing, plaintiff is in time." He himself, when summing up the defendant's contention on the plea of limitation, says the defendants plead that plaintiff was born in 1252, and that he should have sued within 1269, and, not having sued within that period, is barred by limitation.

Then, as to the merits of the case, se objections, evidently of a valid nature, pressed both before the Court of fir stance as well as before him. It wa jected that plaintiff was not the heir uncle, and therefore is not entitled to that share. This objection is not noticed by the Subordinate Judge, gives no decision on it. There is a adjudication as to the plea that pla not entitled to a decree for the whole land claimed by him, inasmuch a never belonged either to plaintiff's fa to his uncle in right of whom the pres is instituted. These omissions necessit remanding the case to him for a prop cision, which entails a great deal of t and expense to the parties. But i Subordinate Judge had carefully rec the points raised before him for deter tion, and determined them on the evi we could have finally disposed of them in special appeal, applying the law facts found.

Jackson, J.—I quite concur in the re of this case.

The 28th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. A *Judges.*

Form of decree—Section 189, Act VIII.

Case No. 2075 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Officiating Additional Judge of hoot, dated the 10th August 187 versing a decision of the Moon Durbhangah, dated the 12th May 1

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The 28th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Sections 230 and 231, Act VIII., 1859—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2220 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Furreedpore, dated the 4th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 13th December 1869.

Mussamut Ehsan Khatoon (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ramnath Sein Lushkur (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Luleet Chunder Sein for Respondent.

When an application under Section 230, Code of Civil Procedure, has been registered as a suit, the Court is bound to investigate it as an ordinary regular suit, and to try, not only the question of possession, but also that of title, and its decision will be final and complete for both purposes.

Mookerjee, J.—IN this case the plaintiff applied under Section 230, Act VIII. of 1859, on the allegation that the defendant, Ramnath Lushkur, who had recovered a decree against Gholam Kadir Chowdhry, had, in execution of that decree, dispossessed the plaintiff from his land. This application appears to have been numbered and registered in the register of suits, and issues were framed as in an ordinary civil suit for possession of land. At the time of the hearing of the case, however, it appears that the Moonsiff fixed the following new issues:—

"Whether the plaintiff was in *bonâ-fide* "possession of the disputed property; if so, "whether she can derive any benefit under "Section 230?" The Moonsiff tried this single issue, and, coming to the conclusion that the plaintiff was not in actual possession, dismissed the suit, it is said, "in the shape of non-suit."

Plaintiff appealed, and the Appellate Court affirmed the Moonsiff's decision, being of opinion that the sole matter the Court have to see in an application under Section 230 is whether the plaintiff was *bonâ fide* in possession of the property, and was dispossessed by the decree-holder defendant in execution of his decree.

Both the Courts referred to a decision of the 18th March 1869, as guiding them in the disposal of this suit. But it appears to me that an application under Section 230, when once registered and numbered as a suit, should be tried as an ordinary suit between the appellant as plaintiff and the decree-holder as defendant. According to the terms of Section 230, "the Court shall proceed to investi-"gate the matter in dispute in the same "manner and with the like powers as if a "suit for the property had been instituted by "the applicant against the decree-holder."

The subsequent Full Bench decision (5 Bengal Law Reports,* page 708), which had been passed on a reference made by the same learned Judges who remanded the case on the 18th March 1869, has decided fully as to the manner in which suits under Section 230 are to be dealt with by the Courts. We should think that, when a suit has been registered as a suit under Section 230, the Courts are bound to investigate that suit as if it was an ordinary regular suit brought by the applicant in the Civil Court, and to try, not only the question of possession, but also the question of title. Turning to Section 231, it appears to us that the decision must be a final and complete decision both for possession and title, for that Section bars any fresh suit upon the same cause of action between the same party or parties or those claiming under them.

We think, therefore, that the case ought to be sent back to the Court of first instance to be tried as an ordinary civil suit between the parties, in which the question of possession as well as that of title should be inquired into, and the suit decided according to the result of that inquiry. Both parties should be allowed the fullest opportunity of adducing any evidence that they think fit to adduce in support of the issues fixed by the Court.

Costs of this appeal will abide the final result.

* 13 W. R., F. B., p. 80.

The 29th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ai
Judges.

**Certificate of administration — Nephew
Deceased son's daughter's son.**

Cases Nos. 19 and 20 of 1871.

*Miscellaneous Special Appeals from a
passed by the Judge of Sarun, dat
3rd December 1870.*

Aree Murdun Bhuggut (Petitioner),
Appellant,

versus

Jannath Bhuggut and others (Oppos
Party), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for Appellant.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Respond

A nephew is entitled to a certificate of admini
in preference to a deceased son's daughter's son.

Jackson, J.—THE appeals before
both appeals by the same person, relati
the certificate granted by the Judge of S
in respect of the estate of one Roopa K
deceased.

This Roopa Kooer was the widow of
gut. Gungun and Roopa had a son
Priagnath Bhuggut, who pre-deceased
his parents, and left a daughter named
rutton Kooer; and the appellant is th
of that daughter.

The person to whom the certificate
been given is Jannath Bhuggut, the s
a brother of Gungun.

It is contended that, in respect of th
tate proper, so to say, of Roopa
namely, that estate which consists
stridhun, Aree Murdun Bhuggut, the
lant, as being lineally descended from
was entitled preferably to Jannath
gut.

It appears, however, that the contest
fore the Zillah Court had no reference
to the *stridhun* of Roopa Kooer, but
related to the estate which she had
widow of Gungun; and it was as hei
Gungun and reversioners that Jannath
some other persons claimed the certifica

Now, that being the state of the case
think there is no reason to doubt that

ge made the proper order. Jannath, nephew of Gungun, is certainly entitled represent Gungun in so far as the estate been the estate of Gungun, in prefer- e to Aree Murdun Bhuggut, who was gun's deceased son's daughter's son. It , therefore, unnecessary to alter in spe- ppeal the order made by the Judge.

t the question of Roopa Kooer's *stri-* having been raised, it may be as well dd that the appellant really does not e out any title to represent her *stridhun* e.

he order of the Judge, therefore, must firmed with costs.

The 29th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

under Act VIII., 1835—Hindoo widow— nt decree — Execution-sale — Judgment- tor's rights.

Case No. 75 of 1870.

ular Appeal from a decision passed by e Officiating Subordinate Judge of ngpore, dated the 28th December 69.

Chowdhry Zuhoorul Huq and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

oroo Churn Roy and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

C. Gregory, Baboo Romesh Chunder itter, and *Moulvie Syud Murhumut ssein* for Appellants.

oos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee and *sur Chunder Chuckerbutty* for Re- pondents.

here a tenure inherited by a Hindoo widow from eceased husband is sold for arrears of rent under Act of 1835, the purchaser does not acquire merely her nal rights, nor do the rights acquired by him cease r death.

here a joint-decree for contribution which had been nd against a Hindoo widow and the reversioner was ted against the latter as the sole surviving judg- -debtor, by the sale of his rights and interests in roperty, the joint property was held to have passed, though the sale-certificate omitted the word roperty."

Bayley, J.—THE plaintiff in this case sued for possession of certain landed property on the allegation of his right of inheritance from his uncle, one Kalee Pershad Roy. The plaintiff alleged that, on the death of Kalee Pershad, his widow Ruttun Monee held the property till her death on the 11th Assin 1266. The property, as for the purposes of this appeal, may be stated as consisting of five several lots. In regard to lot No. 5, we have before us the appeal of Chowdhry Zuhoorul Huq, the defendant-purchaser, against the decision of the Lower Court, holding "that the right of the widow, "Ruttun Monee, was purchased by the de- "fendants, and on the death of the said widow "her right, according to Hindoo shastras, "ceased to exist; and consequently the right "purchased at auction-sale ceased to exist "also," and that plaintiff was accordingly entitled to plot No. 5.

In regard to the other plots 1, 2, 3, and 4, we have a cross-appeal against the decision of the Lower Court, holding that the plaintiff was barred by limitation in respect of those plots, inasmuch as he was bound to sue within one year from the order of the 11th September 1860, rejecting the objections raised by him in execution of the decree of the 24th August 1859.

It may here be mentioned that there was a decree obtained by the zemindar against Ruttun Monee for arrears of rent, and in execution of that decree plot No. 5 was sold on the 27th August 1858 under Act VIII. of 1835, and the remaining plots were also sold on the 7th January 1861 in execution of a decree obtained in the Court of the Principal Sudder Ameen for contribution, and purchased by the defendants.

Now, in regard to plot No. 5, it is quite clear from the record that it was not merely a personal decree against Ruttun Monee, that is, a decree solely and exclusively personal against her, affecting only her rights and interests as a Hindoo widow irrespective of her husband's estate in her hands. She inherited the entire property, as of right of inheritance, from her deceased husband, and held it in that capacity. After her death, the property would go to the next heir if no other rights supervened. Further, the tenure was liable for its own arrears, and it was for the realization of those arrears that it was caused to be sold by the zemindar.

Under these circumstances, the Lower Court was quite wrong in holding that the rights were personal to the widow, and in saying that, in consequence thereof, the purchaser's rights ceased to exist at her death. We, therefore, reverse the decision of the Lower Court on this point.

In a case decided by this Bench on the 8th March last, and in another decided by Mitter and Hobhouse, JJ., to be found at page 504, Weekly Reporter, Volume XII., we find that the view now taken by us was there taken. It was held in those decisions that, in such a case as this, the property itself passed under the sale, and not the mere personal liability of the widow herself.

In regard to plots 1, 2, 3, and 4, the whole question is whether this is one of those cases contemplated by Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, where the remedy must be sought in a civil suit within one year from the date of the order passed under that Section. It is argued that, as Section 246 was not expressly cited as the Section under which the objection was disallowed in execution, one year's limitation does not apply. We would observe that, so long as substantially the case is one arising under that Section, the mere expression of the exact number of the Section is not material; but the real question which we have to decide is as to *what* passed under the sale—whether it passed merely the rights and interests of Ruttun Monee as a Hindoo widow, or the property itself as represented by the plaintiff, who had, at that time, succeeded to it as the heir of Ruttun Monee's husband, Ruttun Monee being dead, and the plaintiff being jointly liable with her for the decree. It is clear that the decree was a joint one against the present plaintiff and his aunt, Ruttun Monee Debia, and both were held jointly responsible. The plaintiff was so as the heir of Umbica Churn, and then Ruttun Monee having died the plaintiff represented the entire property, as the sole survivor of the above two joint judgment-debtors. He, therefore, as thus representing the entire property, was held liable for the joint decree. It is strongly contended that the sale-certificate is silent as to any property, and merely uses the words মৃত দায়িকার ত্যক্ত স্বত্ব মত্য, that is, the rights and interests left by the deceased judgment-debtor. This, we have to observe, is quite contrary to the usual practice, which is to state that the thing sold is the right and interest of the judgment-debtor in the *property left*. Although here the word "property" is omitted in the actual sale-certificate, we must read the certi by the light of the proceeding in exec and the decree to which that proceedin to give effect in execution. It is clear, the certificate is so read by the light o proceeding in execution and by the lig the decree, that the joint property wa ble for the decree, and that the pl Gooroo Churn, as the sole surviving repr ative of the property of the once judgment-debtors, was properly decla have that property sold.

A decision of the Lords of the J Committee of Her Majesty's Privy C has been quoted to us, reported in W Reporter, Volume VIII., page 7, as sh that the widow's personal liability only contemplated; but that case is clearly tinguishable from the present. There sale was specially under Section 9, Act 1845, then the law for sale for arrears of vernment revenue. Here there is a decree, both as against the widow repre ing the estate as well as against the versioner, the whole property event merging in him as the sole surviving j ment-debtor. Besides, there is in this as stated above, the proceeding in exec of the 11th September 1860, and alleged of dispossession under it on various dat Assin 1266 and Cheyt 1267. Thus, clear that for 10 years the plaintiff too action whatever in this matter. We c in this place omit to notice an extr objectionable feature in this litigatio appears that the plaintiff, Gooroo Churn sold a 12-annas share of the property i to one Kristo Soonduree Debia, the fe cousin of a vakeel of the Rungpore C under a deed of sale, the terms of which that the sale was not in consideration of money representing the value of the prop but in consideration of the vakeel ca on this litigation to the extent of a cha 1,000 rupees. The claim, therefore, is only a stale one, but it is fairly presum that, had it not been for the speculative a of the vakeel in regard to supplying f for carrying on the litigation, the action w probably not have been brought. We t it is most indecent and most mischievous vakeels of the districts in which they p tise as such should have any direct pers interest, as shown here, in the litigatio Courts in which they are professionally ployed. No doubt, there are exceptio this rule, as when a vakeel or professional agent is forced into law by reason of hol

erty his right in which is disturbed, or he is otherwise compelled to go to it on honest and reasonable grounds; but is case no such exception presents itself, ase on the plaintiff's own case and con- it is quite clear that the vakeel had acted speculatively to carry on the liti- at a cost of Rupees 1,000, not impos- relying upon the most technical objec- s to the omission of the word "property" the words "left by" in the sale-certifi-

der all the circumstances of the case, verse the decision of the Lower Court, decree the appeal as to plot No. 5, and ss the plaintiff's cross-appeal as to the rties Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

e plaintiffs must pay all the costs of litigation.

The 29th March 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Arbitration—Revocation of consent.

Case No. 2078 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Shahabad, dated the 1st ly 1870, affirming a decision of the onsiff of Sasseeram, dated 31st March 70.

ssamut Ablakhee Kooer and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

odun Singh and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Anund Chunder Ghossal for Appellants.

aboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry and *Doorga Doss Dutt* for Respondents

uit having been referred to arbitration was dismiss- the arbitrators for default, whereupon the plaint- ected to the award, and charged the arbitrators collusion. The Judge, finding that the charge not made out, referred the matter back to the ar- tors for a proper award.

ld that the plaintiff's revocation of his consent to reference did not put an end to the arbitrators' ers.

ackson, J.—THE point raised here in al appeal is that the proceedings under the arbitration were null and void in consequence of what occurred When the arbitrators, to whom the matter had been referred by order of the Court, sent up what they considered a decision of the matter, dismissing plaintiff's suit for default, it appeared that the arbitrators had joined with them certain other persons in the matter of the reference, and sent in as their joint award a decision of the kind I have mentioned.

The plaintiff, who had originally consented to the reference, objected to what had been done, and charged the arbitrators with collusion. The Judge, on inquiry, found that there was no sort of collusion made out, and referred the matter back to the arbitrators giving them instructions how to proceed with the matter of the arbitration, and make the proper award. Thereupon an award was made and judgment entered in accordance with the award.

It has been contended that, after the plaintiff had revoked his consent to the reference, the arbitrators' powers were at an end. But there is an express decision to the contrary by the Privy Council in the case of Pestonjee Nussurwanjee against Manockjee & Co., to be found in 12 Moore's Indian Appeals, page 112.*

The special appeal, therefore, fails, and the decision of the Court below is affirmed with costs.

The 29th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Usufructuary mortgage (Bhog-bundhuk) — Registration—Valuation—Sections 13, 14, and 16, Act XVI. of 1864.

Case No. 2211 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 21st July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Raojan, dated the 9th December 1869.

Ishan Chunder and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Sooja Bebee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

* 10 W. R., Privy Council, p. 51.

Baboo Aukhil Chunder Sein for Appellants.

Mr. G. A. Twidale for Respondent.

Where, in consideration of a loan received, a party agreed that his property should remain in the hands of the lender for a term of years, by which time it was understood the whole amount borrowed would be liquidated, the transaction was held to be not a lease but a *bhog-bundhuk* or usufructuary mortgage.

The registration of such a deed, where the amount advanced is less than Rupees 100, is optional under Sections 13 and 16, Act XVI. of 1864.

Section 14 of that Act does not apply to cases in which the value of the right is distinctly stated in the instrument, but contemplates only cases in which no fixed or definite value is stated in the deed creating the interest.

Mookerjee, J.—THE only point submitted for consideration in this special appeal is whether the Judge was right in rejecting the document on which the suit was based for want of registration. The Judge considers that, although the document is described as a *bunducknamah*, yet, as possession is given to the plaintiff for six years on payment of a certain sum of money recited in that document, the document should be considered as a lease, and not an usufructuary mortgage. He says: "There was then a transfer, or the deed in "question purported to create a transfer for "six years of immoveable property, and the "transfer cannot, I consider, be described as "not being a lease. The transaction repre-"sented by the deed is a temporary transfer "of land in consideration of the receipt of a "certain sum of money, and differs only from "the more ordinary form of lease in the "money-equivalent being paid in a lump sum "in advance, instead of by yearly payments "in arrear."

We have carefully perused the document; we find there is nothing to show that it is a lease, there being no stipulation for payment of any rent. The document appears to be a common *bhog-bundhuk*, or usufructuary mortgage of the property given by the plaintiff to the defendant for a loan of 99 rupees. It is distinctly termed a *bunducknamah*, and all the conditions contained in that deed show that the plaintiff, in consideration of the loan that he received from the defendant, agreed that this property should remain in the hands of the defendant for a term of six years, by which time, it appears, it was understood that the whole of this amount would be liquidated. There is no stipulation for payment of rent, and there is no statement that the sum of 99 rupees received was the rent for six years. We can see no difference between this deed and a *bhog-bundhuk* or usufructuary mortgage.

Now, if this is a mortgage, and the a advanced is only 99 rupees, then under tion 13, as well as under Section 1 XVI. of 1864, registration was mere tional, and the Judge was not right in ing to admit the document as evidence case. Section 13 says: "No instrume "a deed of gift of immoveable prope "lease of immoveable property for any "exceeding one year; no instrument "than a deed of gift or lease as af "which purports or operates to cre "clare, transfer, or extinguish any r "or interest of the value of 100 r "upwards in any immoveable propert "no instrument, which acknowledg "receipt or payment of any consider "account of the creation, declaration, "fer, or extinction of any right, t "interest as above, of such value a "said, in any immoveable property, s "received in evidence in any civil pr "ing in any Court, or shall be acted "any public Officer, if such instr "shall have been executed on or af "date on which this Act shall com "operation," &c.

This appears to us to be a creatio right in the defendant to hold this p in his possession for a term of six y consideration of 99 rupees advanced defendant to the plaintiff. We think, fore, that the document is not a lea it is an usufructuary mortgage; and a mortgage below 100 rupees, its re tion was not compulsory, but optional.

It is contended that Section 14 that "the value of the right, title, or "est in any immoveable property cr "declared, transferred, or extinguish "any instrument, shall be taken to "value indicated by the stamp affixed "to, or impressed thereon under Act "1862;" that the stamp on which document is engrossed being of the va 1 rupee, the value of the right created be, according to this Section, consider be of the value above 100 rupees; and therefore, even if it be a mortgage, it to have been registered, and could n received in evidence not having been registered under this law.

But it appears to us that, looking to X. of 1862, the Stamp Law then in fo the stamp requisite for such a mortg deed would be a stamp of 8 annas, and 1 rupee. The amount of the loan is

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stated in the document to be 99 rupees. Section does not appear to apply to where the value of the right is dis- stated in the instrument which creates ght. But it appears to us that this contemplates only cases where there fixed or definite value of the interest stated in the deed. For the pur- of this Act, the Legislature have laid that the stamp on which such a deed essed shall be taken to indicate the the interest created. It cannot be d that this mortgage could have been ed on a stamp of 8 annas, the amount sum advanced being 99 rupees. ac- to Art. 12, Schedule A of Act X. of and if, either from the ignorance of mp Law, or from the fact that 8-annas was not then available, the parties sed the deed on a higher stamp, we it cannot be contended that merely the circumstance of the stamp used a stamp used for a transfer of an inter- the value of a sum above 100 rupees, ed becomes a deed registration of which pulsory under Act XVI. of 1864. We therefore, that the deed being a mort- deed, and that mortgage being for a sum an 100 rupees, the registration of such was optional, and the fact of its not been registered does not render it issible in evidence in the cause.

case is, therefore, remanded to the of the District Judge for a decision merits.

ts to abide the result.

The 1st April 1871.

Present :

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief tice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

tors—Heirs or assigns—Benameedar's acts—Liability.

Case No. 4 of 1870.

lar Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Purneah, dated 30th September 1869.

boo Lekhraj Roy (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Motee Madhub Sein and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

The Advocate-General and *Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose* for Appellant.

Messrs. J. Graham, J. W. B. Money, and *R. E. Twidale,* and *Baboo Khettur Mohun Mookerjee* for Respondents.

The creditor of a deceased proprietor is not prevented, in the way in which the deceased would have been were he alive, from questioning acts done by the said proprietor's benameedar; for the rule of law by which an heir or assignee stands in no better position than the party through whom he derives his title admits of an exception in favor of those who would be themselves aggrieved or defrauded by the party through whom they claim.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a suit for confirmation of the plaintiff's possession in respect of certain mouzahs in Pergunnah Dhurmpore.

Plaintiff alleges that Rajah Beejoy Gobind Singh, being in possession of the mouzahs in dispute, borrowed money of the plaintiff, and pledged these mouzahs with other properties to him; that the plaintiff obtained a simple money-decree, in execution of which he caused the mouzahs in dispute to be sold, and bought it himself; that under this purchase he obtained possession which he still retains; that Ranee Binodebutty, second wife of the Rajah, brought a suit against the plaintiff to establish her title, which was dismissed on the 16th of February 1869; that, notwithstanding this decision, the defendant, who had obtained a decree against Ranee Binodebutty, having sought to bring the estate to sale as her property, or rather as having been pledged by her to him by a bond dated in 1268, the plaintiff objected; and on an investigation held under Section 246, the plaintiff's objections were disallowed on the 22nd of May 1869. The plaintiff, therefore, sued to establish his title to the mouzahs in question, and to restrain the defendant from bringing them to sale.

The Subordinate Judge, on the 27th of September, fixed one issue: "Whether or not "the deceased Rajah would have been, and "whether his representatives are, bound in "law by the mortgage created by Ranee "Binodebutty over the disputed properties "on account of the loan she took from the "defendant, Motee Madhub Sein?"

Without taking any evidence from either party, the Subordinate Judge decided the case on the 30th of September, by reiterating his decision of the 22nd of May.

Strange to say, the decision of the 22nd of May appears also to have been pronounced

by the Judge without taking any evidence, basing his judgment, apparently, mainly on his recollection of the facts proved before him on the inquiry on the 16th of February.

The plaintiff appeals.

The Subordinate Judge's decision assumes that, because the Rajah, if alive, might have been unable to dispute a title acquired by a purchaser from Ranee Binodebutty, that, therefore, the plaintiff, a creditor of the Rajah and purchaser of his rights and interests in the property, would be equally prevented from questioning acts done by the benameedar of the Rajah. If the rule of law were as the Judge supposes, it would come to this, that the creditors of a person who makes a benamee, pursuing their remedies with the utmost diligence, and bringing his property to sale, would be bound by the acts of the debtor done for the express purpose of defrauding them. The rule of law applicable to such cases is not that supposed by the Judge.

Taylor on Evidence, Section 77, speaking of the case of heirs and assignees, says: The heir or assignee "shall stand in no "better position than the party through "whom he derives his title; if the latter "is not at liberty to contradict what he has "formerly said or done, the former shall "be subject to a like disability. An ex-"ception, however, to this rule is admitted "in favor of those who would be themselves "aggrieved or defrauded by the party through "whom they claim." He gives an instance: "Where a man executed a deed with "the fraudulent intention of defeating the "Statutes of Mortmain, the Court held "that his heir-at-law was not estopped "from questioning the validity of the inden-"ture, since his claim to the land was "founded, not on the deed, but on his title "by descent."

It is clearly impossible for this Court to pronounce any opinion on the merits of the case upon the record as it stands. The advance by the plaintiff, the decree in his favor, and the fact of his purchase in execution of that decree, are admitted. The case must go back to the Subordinate Judge for the trial of the following issues:—

1.—Whether in his lifetime and up to the time of his death, Rajah Beejoy Gobind Singh was in possession of the mouzah dispute as his own property?

2.—Whether, after the death of Beejoy Gobind Singh, Ranee Binode and Ranee Brijbutty were in possessi guardians of the infant son of Rajah Gobind?

3.—Or whether Ranee Binodebu in possession of the land in dispute own property?

4.—Whether the defendant, Motee Sein, made an advance of money to Binodebutty in 1861, and took a mo of the mouzahs in dispute, really and ly believing, in good faith, that Binodebutty was the owner of the sa her own right?

5.—Whether, in taking such mort the said defendant was acting in col with Ranee Binodebutty or others to fraud the creditors of the Rajah?

6.—Whether, in taking such mo the said defendant did so after making inquiry as to the title of the Ranee the ordinary course of business, a p purchaser buying such property make?

7.—What did Motee Madhub under his purchase in execution of t cree of the day of

8.—Whether the plaintiff purchas rights and interests of the Rajah knowledge of, or participation in, any that may have been practised by Rajah?

9.—If so, whether, as such pur the plaintiff has a preferential title property over the defendant Chund the purchaser of the rights and intere Motee Madhub?

10.—Was plaintiff in possession pre to, and at the date of, the suit?

The Subordinate Judge will return finding with the evidence to this Court.

The plaintiff must pay the costs of the peal and the defendant's pleader's fees the original hearing. Each party will his own costs of the review.

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The 1st April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Costs—Interest—Execution.

Case No. 7 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 19th December 1870.

Leelanund Singh (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Maharajah Joy Mungul Singh (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Respondent.

Where the decrees of the Sudder Court and of the Privy Council made no provision for interest on the costs awarded in those Courts, the Lower Court cannot, in execution, allow interest on such costs.

Mitter, J.—We are of opinion that the Lower Court was wrong in awarding interest on the costs, there being no provision for payment of such interest either in the decree of the late Sudder Court or in that of Her Majesty in Council. The Lower Court says: "Costs always carry interest; the decree-holder is entitled to interest on the amount of costs awarded to him." This view, however, has been overruled by a Full Bench decision of this Court, reported in Volume VI., page 109. It is true that the question determined in that case was not to interest upon mesne-profits, but the principle is the same. It has been stated that, according to the practice prevailing in the late Sudder Court at the time when the decree in question was passed, a decree for costs *ipso facto* carried with it an order for interest. We are of opinion that the pleader for the respondent has failed to make out the existence of any uniform and recognized rule of practice in this matter; we, therefore, think that we are bound to follow the principle laid down by the Full Bench ruling above referred to.

We reverse the order of the Subordinate Judge, so far as it awards interest upon the costs awarded by the decrees of the late Sudder Court and of the Privy Council. Each party will bear his own costs in this appeal.

The 1st April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Intermediate tenure—Enhancement of rent—Notice—Protection.

Case No. 1944 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Tipperah, dated the 25th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 25th April 1870.

Sreemutty Jannoba (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Grish Chunder Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Nuleet Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

The Advocate-General and *Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss, Doorga Mohun Doss,* and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Respondent.

In a suit to enhance the rent of an intermediate tenure after a notice which stated distinctly and affirmatively that the talookdar could collect so much rent from the ryots: Held that it was for the talookdar to support his claim to protection, if he had one, on the ground that he could not, in his turn, obtain from the ryots the rent which the superior holder claimed from him.

Where a zemindar, seeking to enhance the rent of an intermediate tenure, gives notice, stating the plaintiff's right to enhance according to the special custom of the district, it is a good notice.

Glover, J.—This was a suit to enhance the rent of an intermediate tenure, styled a "tuksheeshee" talook, after notice.

The defendant alleged that the talook had been held from the date of the perpetual settlement at a fixed rent which could not be enhanced; that as the rent had not varied for the 20 years previous to the institution of suit, defendant was entitled to the presumption of law arising under Section 4, Act X. of 1859; that the notice served was informal; that the Collector's Court had no jurisdiction; and that the zemindar could not

enhance the rent of the tenure, although he might put an end to its existence.

Both the Courts below found for the plaintiff. The Judge held that, although the rent paid by the defendant had not varied for the 20 years preceding suit, it was clear that the talook had been created subsequent to the decennial settlement, and was not, therefore, protected from enhancement.

The first ground of special appeal, namely, that, "there being no agreement between the "parties whereby the plaintiff was entitled "to demand enhanced rent in the terms of "his notice, the present suit must fail"—was not taken in the Court below, and cannot, we think, be allowed in special appeal.

The second is that the notice served by the plaintiff was informal, and does not disclose any legal ground of enhancement.

The notice is to this effect:—"You, "Sreemutty Jannoba, hold a tuksheeshee ta-"look, the rent of which has always been "of a varying nature: that you have been "called upon to make a settlement with "your landlord at the pergunnah rates; that, "by the immemorial custom of the pergun-"nah, the holders of such talooks as yours, "after deducting 10 per cent. of the fair "jumma for collection-charges and 10 per "cent. for malikana, are bound to pay the "residue as rent to the zemindar; that you "hold so much land, which, according to "the rates paid for similar kinds of land "in the same and adjacent villages, ought "to pay such and such a gross rental; from "this, deducting your 20 per cent. on ac-"count of malikana and collection-charges, "the remainder, so much, ought to be paid "to me as my rent, and you are hereby call-"ed upon to pay that amount."

It is argued that this notice is bad in law, inasmuch as it does not set forth the grounds of enhancement with sufficient clearness; that it ought to have stated that the amount at which the zemindar had calculated the gross assets was recoverable by the talookdar from the ryots in the same proportion, they not being protected from the middleman's right to enhance any more than the middleman was protected from the zemindar.

In support of this contention, we have been referred to the case of Dinonath Doss *versus* Guggun Chunder Sein, decided by this Court on the 30th August 1870.*

* 14 W. R., p. 274.

Mr. Justice Phear says in this case: "is not a good ground of enhanceme "the rent of any tenure that the holde "may possibly, having regard to the "of the land, be able to increase the "which he derives from it; it must at le "shown that he is able so to incre "profits. Now, not only, as I understa "notice, does it omit to state affirm "that the defendant is in a position to "ize this increase, but there is not "ticle of evidence on the record "could establish a conclusion "sort."

The circumstances of this case a before us, nor have we been shown was the precise wording of the notice on the talookdar. It is alleged th case before us is of a precisely similar acter to the one alluded to above: b are not shown that this is so. And fro translation given by Mr. Justice Phe the words of the notice, we should do fact. In the notice which the plai this suit served upon his tenant, it i tinctly alleged that such and such ra obtained from such and such descripti land; that you, the tenant, have been to hold so much of each description o and must, therefore, for the future, much rent. The notice states distinct affirmatively that the talookdar could lect so much rent.

That being so, it was for the tena think, to support his claim to protec he had one, on the ground that for so son or other—mokurruree pottahs, la holdings, and the like—he could his turn, obtain from the ryots the rent the superior holder claimed to receiv him. But he never made any such obj from first to last; never put it forw his written statement; never made it his grounds of appeal to the Judge objected, no doubt, to the jurisdiction Collector as he did to the legality of th tice, but that was upon other grounds. his substantial defences to the suit were the tenure was protected from enhance because it had paid one uniform and un ing rate from the date of the permanent tlement, and that the measurement of land was wrong, and the rates of rent on the different sorts of land improper.

It is further objected that the notice not specify that the adjacent lands of milar kind are held by a similar cla

nts. No doubt, this last clause of the ce is omitted in the notice; but as it te clear from the record that the de- nt knew perfectly well what the nature e case was against him, and that the iff's claim was based on this fact as s the others, we do not think that what idently a clerical omission, which in y prejudiced the talookdar, should te to make the notice bad for incom- ess. The object of the law is that a who is called upon to pay more rent he has hitherto done should know the nds on which the extra demand is made; here is no doubt in this case that the dant perfectly understood why he was d upon to pay more than he used to. It very well be doubted whether a zemin- eeking to enhance the rent of an inter- te tenure such as this, is bound to give ther notice than the one contemplated ection 51, Regulation VIII. of 1793. e is no rule laid down in Act X. of 1859 e enhancement of the rents of under- es, and the notice would, we think, been a good notice, if it had merely d the plaintiff's right to enhance accord- the special custom of the district.

t, assuming that notice in the terms of n 17, Act X. of 1859, was necessary, s been argued that the facts necessary ve the plaintiff a decree for enhance- have not been proved; that it has not proved that the defendant's lands pay han similar lands in adjacent localities by the same class of tenants.

e case of Kalee Nath Chowdhry *versus* ee Bibee, 12 Weekly Reporter, p. 506, oted to show that such an omission is to the plaintiff's claim.

s case, we observe, refers to omissions essary particulars from a notice of en- ement, and would apply to the special llant's previous objection as to the form- of the notice. The point now before one which the Lower Court decided on evidence, and we cannot interfere with finding in special appeal.

astly, it is contended that the Court be- has decided that the talook is not pro- d from enhancement on purely conjec- l grounds.

he Judge was wrong, no doubt, in suppos- that it was necessary to prove the exist- of the talook from before the Perpetual lement. It would have been sufficient, as the law stands at present, to show that it was in existence at and from the date of that settlement. But as regards proof of variation of rent, we think there has been a legally sufficient finding. Even if the first dowl (which, however, is shown to have come from proper custody, and is of an age to dispense with the usual strict proof) be put aside, the second has been proved by at least one witness; and this alone would be sufficient to establish the fact that the rent had varied.

The question as to the terms on which tuksheeshee talooks are by the custom of the Tipperah Zillah held is one of fact, which the Courts below have decided on evidence which is legally sufficient for the purpose.

We see no ground on which we can interfere with the Judge's decision in this case; and we, therefore, dismiss this special appeal with costs.

The 3rd April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Lien—Execution—Section 243, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 15 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of Sylhet, dated the 19th November 1870.

Nuddyabashee Doss (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Reza Chowdhry (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Baboo Ashootosh Dhur for Appellant.

No one for Respondent.

Where a decree declares a decree-holder's lien on certain property without distinctly declaring his right to sell the same, it may be executed as against that property specially; but the usual course of attachment and of sale on the one hand, or of attachment and management under Section 243, Code of Civil Procedure, on the other hand, must still take place.

Jackson, J. We think that no sufficient facts have been shown to us which neces-

sitate interference in this case. There is a discretion in the Courts executing decrees under Section 243, Act VIII. of 1859, and that discretion has been exercised by the Lower Court in this case *primâ facie* upon sufficient ground. Debts to the amount of 40,000 rupees are to be recovered from the properties which have been attached and placed under the management of a manager, and those properties yield Rupees 12,000 per annum, so that in 3 years the debts can be realized. The debts, it is true, are large, but the properties also are large, and *primâ facie*, if these facts are correct, there seems to be a good ground for the exercise of the discretion given under Section 243.

But it is said that the decree-holder in this case held as security for his debt one special property, and that he has obtained a decree to recover his money from that property, and that he has a preferential claim as regards that property to recover the amount of debt which is due to him. It is said also that, under his decree, he was entitled to sell this property.

It would appear, however, that the decree only declared his lien on the property, and did not distinctly declare his right to sell the property. His lien being declared, the decree could be executed as against that property specially; but the usual course of attachment and sale on the one hand, or of attachment and management under Section 243 on the other hand, must still take place. If we had been shown that the decree-holder in this case had been prejudiced in any way by the present proceeding, and that he did not, in fact, obtain the proceeds of this one particular property, there might have been some ground for our interference. But, for all we know, all that appears from the record, and all that has been stated to us, it may be that he is now receiving all the profits which can be obtained from this one particular property, though these facts may not be distinctly stated. Upon the whole, we think that no sufficient case has been made out for our interference, and we see no sufficient ground to interfere with the discretion of the Judge in allowing time to the judgment-debtor, so that his debts may be paid off by a careful and proper management of his property. As the case stands at present, we dismiss the appeal, but without costs, as the respondent has not appeared.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 3rd April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Plaint—Plaintiff's evidence.

Case No. 188 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision pa the Judge of Patna, dated the 30th 1870.

Dullil Sing (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Shitab Lall (Defendant), *Respondent*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry, nath Doss, and *Boodh Sein Sing* for spondent.

Where a plaintiff starts such a case as that, chasing certain property, he was deceived by the the knowledge of an existing incumbrance have fraudulently withheld, it is his business to tes self as a witness, and pledge his oath to the truth allegation.

Jackson, J.—It appears to me that decision of the Judge, who dismissed plaintiff's suit, is entirely justified by evidence. The Judge states, no doubt the conclusion of his judgment, that "b "we come to criticize defendant's case "must have a fair *primâ-facie* case made "by plaintiff, whereas he has simply p "nothing." This might lead to the i ence that the Judge had thrown the o proof entirely upon the plaintiff, and considered that no case was made o him; whereas the truth is that both had given their evidence, witnesses been examined on both sides, and the has believed the witnesses called by defendant. It appears to me that the dence on the defendant's side is not not discredited in any way, but it is rently probable and consistent with the which are indisputable.

But in addition to this, there is an circumstance which, I must say, has weight with me in inducing me to affirm judgment of the Court below, that is to the plaintiff's case rests very mainly the allegation that, in purchasing this

he was deceived by the vendor; that ledge of an existing incumbrance was eld from him by fraud; and that, being ignorant, he paid the entire amount of rchase-money stated in the deed.

w, it appears to me that, to start such as this, it was the plaintiff's business der himself as a witness, appear in ness-box, and pledge his oath to the of that allegation. But he has done g of the sort. He has called the de- t, no doubt, and the evidence of the nt has certainly not been favorable plaintiff.

have been asked to cure this so-called of the plaintiff, by ordering him to be oned and to attend here for the pur- of giving evidence. But no reason er has been shown why we should the plaintiff's case to be added to or ed in that way. On the contrary, s to me to be unadvisable to accede application. It would be very un- le that we should allow parties, who ot thought proper to come forward and mined in the zillah, to be examined this distance from the place where l was held, and from the possible of contradicting statements which may make. This application, there- must be disallowed, and the appeal e dismissed with costs.

pherson, J.—I concur.

The 3rd April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

tion 246, Act VIII., 1859—Appeal—Rights of worship—Hindoo idol.

Case No. 410 of 1870.

llaneous Appeal from an order passed the Judge of Dacca, dated the 18th ly 1870, affirming an order of the Sud- Moonsiff of that District, dated the h June 1869.

Churn Gir Gossain (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

ungshee Mohun Doss and another (Decree-holders), *Respondents.*

Baboo Motee Lall Mookerjee for Appellant.
Baboo Doorga Mohun Doss for Respondents.

No appeal lies from an order on an application under Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure, which can only be contested by a regular suit.

The rights of worship of a Hindoo idol cannot be sold in execution of a decree for the personal debt of a shebait.

Mookerjee, J.—In this case the judgment-debtor appeals against the order of the Judge of Dacca, affirming an order of the Moonsiff rejecting plaintiff's objection to the sale of certain properties belonging to a *deb-sheba*, and especially to the sale of certain *pallahs* or rotation of service of a certain idol. Objection is taken by the respondents, judgment-creditors, to the effect that, as the application was virtually under Section 246, the order of the Court of first instance was final, and it can only be contested by a regular suit.

We think that this objection is valid, and that there does not lie an appeal to this Court, nor did an appeal lie to the District Judge. But we find, on referring to the order of the Moonsiff, that the Moonsiff has found that the properties Nos. 1 to 9 were not proved to his satisfaction to belong to the *deb-sheba*. His order, as regards those properties, appears to be perfectly correct. But it is said that the Moonsiff then proceeded to order that certain *pallahs* or rights of service in the judgment-debtor ought to be sold exempting the right to perform the actual *poojah*. We do not see how rights of worship of a Hindoo idol can be sold by a Court to the highest bidder in execution of a decree for the personal debt of a *shebait*. It has been held all along that such a right of service or *pallah* cannot be sold, for it may happen that the purchaser of the rights of the *sheba* may be of a different religion, and may not be disposed to perform the services: the object of the endower in creating the endowment may thus be defeated, and rendered null and void. We perfectly agree with the principle laid down by a Division Bench of this Court in a case to be found in 3 Wyman's* Revenue, Civil, and Criminal Reports, page 176; and we hold that the Moonsiff, in execution of the decree against the judgment-debtor, a shebait, should not proceed to sell his rights of service of a Hindoo idol. We are not, however, quite certain that the Moonsiff has passed an order ordering the sale of the *pallah*. If he has, he is certainly wrong in

* 7 W. R., p. 266.

ordering a sale of a right of that nature. If it was the intention of the Moonsiff to sell the *pallah*, we hope that, after this expression of our opinion, he will not proceed to sell the *pallah*.

We reject this appeal with costs, two gold mohurs being allowed for pleaders' fees.

The 4th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges*.

Purchaser of fraudulent decree—Vakeel's evidence—Section 24, Act II., 1855.

Case No. 49 of 1871.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Moonsiff of Seetamoondee in Tirhoot, dated the 15th January 1870.

Doolar Jha (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

Runjeet Roy and others (Defendants), *Respondents*.

Baboo Debendra Narain Bose for Appellant.

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Respondents.

The purchaser of an *ex-parte* decree strongly tainted with fraud cannot be allowed to profit by it.

Section 24, Act II. of 1855, does not warrant a vakeel's exclusion from the witness-box, though it may excuse his answering certain questions relating to communications between him and his client.

Jackson, J.—It seems to me that the decision of the Moonsiff dismissing this suit was a right decision, and ought to be affirmed. The conduct of Heera Lall appears to be characterized with the grossest fraud. He has sold this property on behalf of himself and his minor brother, and then, after receiving the purchase-money, he brought a suit as heir of his brother, alleging that his own act had been done without authority, and seeking, as heir of that brother, to recover the one-half which he had himself sold During the pendency of that suit, the purchaser negotiated with Heera Lall, and agreed actually to pay a further sum, in con tion whereof Heera Lall was to ex second kobala for the same property.

It is alleged in the written sta although there is no proof of the fa Heera did promise, in consideration of ing this further sum, to withdraw t that he had brought; and that the def in reliance on this promise of his, steps; and that, in consequence of his sion to look after the case, the suit w and was decreed *ex parte*, and the plaintiff purchased the decree so ob Heera's whole right.

Now, although no formal proof as Heera promised to do is on the recor can be no difficulty whatever in co the conclusion, which is irresistibly su by the facts, that the purchaser, de before us, placed himself in Heera's and relied entirely upon him and surances.

The second bill of sale from Heera defendant was registered, and the e goes to show that the money paid to on this second occasion passed thro hands of the plaintiff's brother. Tha to create a very strong suspicion t plaintiff himself knew what was on. At any rate, the plaintiff cannot to stand higher than Heera did, a decree which Heera obtained was tainted with fraud.

I think it impossible, as the facts that we should allow the purchaser a decree to profit by it, and that the d of the Moonsiff which dismissed the suit ought to be affirmed.

It appears that the defendant, spondent, sought to examine one dharee, who had been Heera Lall and had also acted for him in the the second conveyance, but that an o was raised under the 24th Section Evidence Act (II. of 1855) to that done.

Now, it might very well be that T dharee would be excused from answer tain questions relating to communi between him and his client, but that be no reason for excusing Tripoor from being put in the witness-box ought to have been placed there and been examined, subject, of course, to tion being made to particular questions,

ions the Court might probably have lowed.

e defendant will get the costs of this of the previous hearing, as well as the of the Lower Appellate Court.

cpherson, J.—I concur.

The 4th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onoocool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

ction 105, Act X. of 1859—Execution—Attachment.

Case No. 1298 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by the dge of Tipperah, dated 7th April 1870, rming a decision of the Moonsiff of Begunge, dated the 19th August 1869.

wlut Gazee Chowdhry and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

shee Munwar and another (two of the Defendants), *Respondents.*

boos Sreenath Doss and *Kalee Kishen Sein* for Appellants.

oos Nuleet Chunder Sein and *Kashee Kant Sein* for Respondents.

ecuting a decree for arrears of rent, a Court, ection 105, Act X. of 1859, has power only to d sell that which at the time is the property of gment-debtor. Where, therefore, a decree was d against persons who were originally proprie- the land, but who, at the time of the decree and ent sale, had ceased to have any interest there- purchaser at the sale in execution of such decree thing.

cpherson, J.—This is a suit for pos- n of, and declaration of title to, a -annas share of a certain small talook, ered 53, and registered in the names ahruffooddeen and Shujatooddeen, who originally the proprietors of it.

1270, in execution of a decree of a Court against Mushruffooddeen and tooddeen, the talook was attached and sold. At the sale it was purchased in the name of a third party by the plaintiff Kurreemunnissa and the defendant Manik Bibee, each of these women having an eight-annas share in the purchase. In 1274, Manik Bibee's eight-annas share was purchased by the plaintiff Dowlut Gazee Chowdhry, at a sale held in execution of a decree of a Civil Court against Manik Bibee. No mutation of names was ever made in the books of the zemindar; but rent for the seven-annas share, which is the subject of this suit, was received for 1271-72 from Kurreemunnissa and Manik Bibee, who, in the receipt granted to them, are described as the auction-purchasers.

Subsequent to the purchase by Dowlut Gazee Chowdhry, the holder of the seven-annas share of the talook instituted a suit under Act X. of 1859 for the rent of 1273-74. This suit was not against Kurreemunnissa and Dowlut Gazee Chowdhry (the persons really interested in the matter), but against the original recorded proprietors, Mushruffooddeen and Shujatooddeen and against Manik Bibee, not one of whom any longer had anything to do with the property. An *ex-parte* decree was obtained; a seven-annas share in the talook was sold in execution of it; and at the sale the defendant, Amjud Ali, was the purchaser. Amjud has since been put in possession by the Court.

The plaintiffs then sued. In their plaint they allege the suit under which the defendant Amjud Ali purchased to be fraudulent as against them, and pray that the sale may therefore be set aside, &c. The Moonsiff gave them the decree they sought, finding that the fraud alleged was proved.

The Lower Appellate Court held that no fraud was proved, reversed the decree of the Moonsiff, and dismissed the suit. Before the Lower Appellate Court it was urged on behalf of the plaintiffs that, even if fraud were not proved, they were entitled to succeed, as Amjud Ali had, in fact, bought nothing, the persons against whom the decree (under which he purchased) had been obtained having, at the time of the decree and sale, no interest whatever in the tenure. As to this, the Judge says: "But "in this suit there is no question of what "was sold or bought, the only question be- "ing whether there was any fraud in putting "up the talook to sale, &c."

In special appeal it is contended before us that the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in refusing to consider the question of what was sold or bought, and in holding that the suit necessarily failed if the fraud alleged were not proved.

It appears to me that the appellants are entitled to our judgment, and that the decree of the Lower Appellate Court should be reversed. On the face of the transaction, there is strong evidence in support of the allegation of fraud which is made in the plaint, and it is not much to be wondered at if the other question, as to whether anything passed by the sale of Amjud Ali, was not specially put forward. When the Judge reversed the Moonsiff's finding as to fraud, I think he should have decided the question as to whether Amjud Ali purchased anything, which question was then raised distinctly, and for the decision of which there were ample materials upon the record.

I am of opinion that, under Section 105 of Act X. of 1859, the Court has power only to seize and sell that which at the time is the property of the judgment-debtor (*see* 10 Weekly Reporter, pp. 434-446-494). The decree under which Amjud Ali purchased was against persons who at the time had no interest in the tenure which was sold, and nothing, therefore, passed to him.

The decision of the Lower Appellate Court is reversed, and the decree of the Moonsiff is restored and affirmed. The appellants are entitled to their costs in all the Courts.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur. I also think that the Judge ought to have tried the point distinctly raised before him as to the respective rights of the parties under their purchase. I find from the sale-certificate of the defendant that he merely purchased the right, title, and interest of the old proprietors of this jote, who had no title at all at the time of the decree or the sale.

Whatever right and title those persons possessed had completely passed to the plaintiff in a previous execution-sale. The defendant, therefore, purchased nothing. The right of the plaintiff must, therefore, I apprehend, prevail over that of the defendant. I would, therefore, allow this appeal with all costs.

The 4th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainsl

Judges.

Analogous cases—Consent of parties

Case No. 1827 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed Additional Judge of Nuddea, dat 21st May 1870, affirming a decision Moonsiff of that District, dated the January 1869.

Soorendronath Roy (Defendant), *Appell*

versus

Purmanund Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respon*

Baboos Grish Chunder Mookerjee, Mohe Lall Shome, and *Kashee Kant Sei* Appellants.

Baboo Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty Respondent.

A Judge should not, without the consent of th ties, allow his judgment in one case to govern sion in another, even if the subject of dispute similar nature and the evidence similar in ch when the parties are not the same, and the matter of the suit is different.

Loch, J.—In this case, the Judge mences his judgment with a manifest He says that the parties are the same Case No. 51. But on referring to Ca 51, it appears from the record that the iff is a different person. It is true th subject of dispute is of a similar nat the suit is for a separate plot of land although the evidence in that case may a similar character, as has been put in this case, yet the Judge should ha cided each case upon the evidence rec in each, and should not, without the co of the parties, have allowed his judgme the one case to govern the decision i other.

The case is accordingly remanded Judge to be disposed of upon the evid recorded in this case.

Costs will follow the result.

d

The 4th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

tion 24, Act X. of 1859—Cause of action—Jurisdiction.

e No. 1862 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by the udge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 8th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 31st March 1870.

Prosunno Chunder Bose (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Prosunno Chunder Roy and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Appellant.

boos Annund Chunder Ghossal and *Obhoy Churn Bose* for Respondents.

e superintendent of two estates situated in differ- sub-divisions gave an ekrar to the zemindar that ould make good any retrenchment made by the dar in the accounts. The zemindar, after examin- e accounts, refused to admit certain items, and sued superintendent under Section 24, Act X. of 1859.

LD that, as the terms of the kubooleut, given by hat when he was appointed superintendent, re- d him to make the zemindar's principal cutcherry ce of business, that must be considered to be the where the cause of action arose, and the suit ought e been instituted in the sub-division in which endant's principal cutcherry was situated.

ch, J.—THE question before us in this is in itself a simple one. It is—What e place where the case of action arose een the parties, and in what Court ld the suit have been instituted?

he suit is clearly one under Section 24, X. of 1859. It is a suit by a zemindar inst an agent for the recovery of money the hands of the said agent. Whatever be the allegations in the plaint, we see rly that this is the nature of the suit.

It a pears that in Aughran 1272, the de- dan executed a kubooleut in favor of the aint hen he (defendant) was appointed superintendent of two estates—one called Chalmaree, within the sub-division of Diamond Harbour, and the other Alipore, within the sub-division of Alipore.

The defendant held the office of superintendent till Pous 1275; and then for some reason or other which does not appear, he gave an ekrar to plaintiff, dated the 19th of Pous 1275, to the effect that he would make good any retrenchment which the plaintiff made in the accounts of the estates committed to his (defendant's) charge.

The plaintiff, after examining the accounts, did make retrenchment, refusing to admit certain items debited in the accounts, aggregating to a sum of Rupees 3,400, to recover which this suit is instituted under Section 24 of Act X. of 1859 in the sub-division of Alipore, apparently upon the ground that, as one of the estates was in that sub-division, plaintiff was entitled to bring his suit in that Court.

Subsequently, however, on the 18th January 1870, plaintiff filed a petition before the Collector, praying that, as the greater portion of the land to which the suit referred was situated in the Diamond Harbour Sub-division, the suit might be transferred to the officer in charge of that sub-division; and on the 29th of that same month, the defendant filed a petition praying that the plaint might be dismissed, because it had been filed in the Alipore Court, which had no jurisdiction to try the case.

On the 8th February 1870 plaintiff put in a petition, saying that it was by mistake that he had made the application to transfer the suit to the Deputy Collector of Diamond Harbour; and he prayed, therefore, that it might be tried in the Court in which it was instituted.

On the first of these applications the Collector appears to have directed the Deputy Collector to report whether he had jurisdiction to try the case; and on the subsequent petition presented by the plaintiff, he held that no action need be taken then.

The Deputy Collector of the sub-division of Alipore tried the question of jurisdiction, and he held that, as the Mokamee or principal cutcherry where the zemindar's treasury was, and to which all remittances were sent, and where the accounts of both the estates were kept, was situated in Mouzah Badehgorah or Naraintollah in the Diamond Har-

bour Sub-division, the suit should have been instituted in the sub-division of Diamond Harbour, as the cause of action must be considered to have arisen in the Mokamee cutcherry.

The Judge, on appeal, appears to consider that the suit being one against a gomashta under Section 24, as the estates in his charge lie in different sub-divisions, the zemindar was entitled to bring his suit in either Court within the jurisdiction of which any of the land was situated; and he did not determine where the Mokamee cutcherry was situated, as he seemed to think that it was not necessary to decide this point in determining the question of jurisdiction. The law is silent on the subject, and the latter part of Section 20, Act VI. of 1862, Bengal Council, will not assist us in determining the question of jurisdiction; but looking to the purport of the pleadings as stated to us, it would appear that both parties consider it necessary to have it determined where the Mokamee cutcherry is situated, as both parties say that the cause of action arose there. The plaintiff alleges that the Mokamee cutcherry is in Bardowla, within the Alipore sub-division; and the defendant alleges that it is in Barahgolah or Naraintollah, within the Diamond Harbour sub-division; and we think, looking to the terms of the kubooleut given by the defendant, which required him to make the principal cutcherry his place of business, that must be considered to be the place where the cause of action arose. It was to the Mokamee cutcherry that all moneys were remitted; it was there that all the accounts were prepared; and it was there that the money first came under the control of the defendant, where by his order it would be disbursed, and where, in fact, according to his accounts, the money *was* disbursed.

We, therefore, do not agree in the opinion expressed by the Judge, that the plaintiff was at liberty to institute his suit in either one or the other sub-division, for he ought to have instituted it in that sub-division where the defendant had his place of business. We, therefore, remand the case to the Judge to determine whether the Mokamee cutcherry is, as is stated by the plaintiff, in the Alipore sub-division, or whether it is in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, as is alleged by the defendant, and to dispose of the case accordingly.

Costs will follow the result.

The 4th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Zemindar's rights—Assignee's right of su

Case No. 1897 of 1870 under Act X. of 1

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Additional Judge of Nuddea, the 2nd June 1870, affirming a de of the Assistant Collector of Meh dated the 15th January 1870.

Reedoy Monee Burmonee (Plaintiff), *Appellant.*

versus

Mr. Hugh Sibbold (Defendant), *Respond*

Baboo Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty for Appellant.

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Respondent.

The assignee of a zemindar's right to receive has a right to sue in the Collector's Court, whether assignment has been effected by the intervention of Civil Court or by the private act of the zemindar.

Loch, J.—We think that the Lower Co have come to a wrong decision in this c and we would refer to two judgments of Court: one reported at page 199 of Mars Reports; and the other in Volume XIV the Weekly Reporter, page 456. In first of these cases, it is clearly laid that, when a zemindar has assigned his to receive rents to a third party, such party has a right to sue, and may bring suit in the Collector's Court. The se case is to the same effect.

In the case before us, the only diffe is that the assignee has obtained his r by the intervention of the Civil Court, not by the private act of the zemi But this makes no real difference. If in one case the assignee under a private tr fer can sue, there is no reason why he sh not be able to do so when he is an assi by auction-purchase in execution of a cree.

We, therefore, reverse the decision of Lower Courts, and remand the case to first Court for trial on the merits.

The appellant will have his costs of appeal.

The 4th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

mption—Section 10, Regulation XIX. of 3—Assessment—Clause 1, Section 23, Act 1859.

se No. 2281 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Judge of East Burdwan, ted the 25th July 1870, reversing a rision of the Deputy Collector of that istrict, dated the 26th February 1870.

ohinee Nundun Gossamee and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

essur Koondoo and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Ashootosh Dhur for Appellants.

os Kishen Succa Mookerjee and *Umbika Churn Banerjee* for Respondents.

here a zemindar had obtained an *ex-parte* decree ring certain lands to be his mâl lands, it was held his only remedy was to have the rates at which he authorized under Section 10, Regulation XIX. of to collect the rents determined, and to obtain a bleut, and his only course was to sue in the Col- 's Court under Clause 1, Section 23, Act X. of

emp, J.—THIS was a suit under the visions of Clause 1, Section 23, Act X. of , for determination of the rates of rent for the delivery of a kubooleut. The Court gave the plaintiff a decree, ap- ntly not for the sum claimed, but for aller sum, namely, for Rupees 17-2-10

o question or plea as to the jurisdiction he Court was raised either in the first rt or in appeal to the Judge; but the ge, without going into the case at all, s that a decision to be found at page 442, me XII., Weekly Reporter, is on all s with the present case. He, therefore, eed the appeal, and reversed the decision he Deputy Collector.

n special appeal it is contended that the ge ought not to have raised the point of diction when it was not raised in the rt of first instance or in appeal; *2ndly*, t the Judge ought to have held that the resumption-decree was conclusive evidence of the right of the plaintiff to demand rent from the defendant, and also of the relationship of landlord and tenant; and *3rdly*, that the precedent quoted by the Judge is not applicable to the circumstances of this case.

We think that the Judge was right in raising the question of jurisdiction, although not raised in the first Court or in appeal; but on the 2nd and 3rd grounds we differ from the Judge. It appears that the plaintiff in this case sued to have 18 beegahs 1 cottah of land declared to be mâl land appertaining to his zemindaree. We may observe here, before proceeding further, that the suit to have this land declared mâl was originally brought by the zemindar; that subsequently the plaintiff, as putneedar, stands in the shoes of the zemindar; that the decree was passed in the absence of the defendant who did not appear, and the plaintiff proved that the land was mâl; and therefore it was ordered that a decree should issue in favor of the plaintiff, and that it be held that the land was the mâl land of the plaintiff. On obtaining this decision, the plaintiff now comes in for a declaration of the rates of rent to be paid by the defendant and for the delivery of a kubooleut at these rates, claiming the sum of Rupees 36-6 annas as the fair and proper rate to be charged, and demanding a kubooleut at that jumma. The first Court did not give the plaintiff a decree for what he asks, but for the lesser sum of 17 rupees odd annas. Whether under the Full Bench ruling this decision will stand or not, it is for the Judge to decide if it is raised before him.

With reference to the ruling to be found at page 442, Volume XII., Weekly Reporter, we think that that decision does not apply to the circumstances of the present case. It is clearly mentioned by Mr. Justice Mitter in that decision that the plaintiff in that case obtained a decree under the provisions of Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819. In the present case, the decree was not passed under that Section; the decree was simply to the effect that the lands in suit were the mâl lands of the plaintiff.

We may observe further that there is a decision of the late Sudder Court of the 13th July 1861, Raikes and Trevor, JJ., which applies precisely to the circumstances of this suit, and in which those learned Judges held that the provisions of Clause 1, Section 23, and Section 31 apply, that the

zemindar or putneedar, as in this case, was entitled to bring suit for determination of rates and delivery of a kubooleut. We also fail to see how it can be argued in the face of the decision, which distinctly declares the defendant's lands to be the mâl lands of the plaintiff, that the plaintiff is not entitled to rent for these mâl lands. His only remedy was to have the rates at which he is authorized under Section 10, Regulation XIX. of 1793, to collect the rents determined, and to obtain a kubooleut according to such rates as may be found to be fair and equitable; and to enable him to do so, the only course open to him was that which he has pursued, namely, to sue in the Collector's Court, under Clause 1, Section 23 of Act X. of 1859, to have it determined what are fair and equitable rates payable on the land and for delivery of a kubooleut at those rates.

We, therefore, remand the case for the Judge to try it on the grounds raised in the first Court, and also to take into consideration, if necessary, whether under the Full Bench Ruling and with reference to the claim having been made for a kubooleut at a fixed jumma of Rupees 36-6, and the Court of first instance having decreed the delivery of a kubooleut for a lesser sum, namely, Rupees 17 odd annas, the suit of the plaintiff is liable to dismissal or not.

Costs to follow the result.

The 4th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure—Cause of action—Section 354—Remand—Procedure.

Case No. 2475 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Second Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 3rd September 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Sulkea, dated the 19th February 1870.

Shumboo Chunder Surnokar (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Russick Chunder Chung and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appell

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *U nath Bose* for Respondents.

Where the success of a party in summary proce under Section 246, Code of Civil Procedure, is grou upon his being in possession as of his own right, a sufficient cause of action to the opposite party.

Where an Appellate Court finds that there is dence upon the record to enable it to decide a qu at issue between the parties, and remands the cas Section 354 of the Code for additional evidence, it to require such evidence with the finding of the Court to be sent up to it for decision.

Glover, J.—It appears that, in exe of a certain decree against the plain this case, the judgment-creditor, one Th Monee Dassee, attached 1 beegah 10 co of land as the property of her judg debtor. The defendant intervened Section 246 of the Code of Civil Proce and his claim was allowed.

The plaintiff, therefore, brings this to have his right and title declared in 1 beegah 10 cottahs, and to have the mary order under Section 246 declared valid. The plaintiff claims this land as mourussee tenure under an amulna dated the 21st Falgoon 1199. The def ant claims to hold the disputed land u a pottah from the zemindar, dated the Assin 1276, and his allegation is that 1 beegah 10 cottahs in dispute are not inc ed within the plaintiff's amulnamah.

The first Court decreed for the plai but the Subordinate Judge, finding that land mentioned in the amulnamah wa beegahs 4 cottahs 11 chitacks, whereas suit was brought on the said amuln as for 9 beegahs 9 cottahs 11 chitacks, the Subordinate Judge, not being able account for this discrepancy, and not find any evidence on the record whereby could find whether or not the disputed was covered by the amulnamah, rema the case to the first Court to have question tried, and he directs the Moo "to institute a due inquiry, and try the "on its merits after examining the witne "of the defendant, if he is prepared "adduce any."

The defendant appeals against this or urging in the first place that the pl discloses no cause of action, and that suit should be at once dismissed; and that, as the first Court had fixed and the proper issue, the order of rema was illegal. The first objection was taken at any previous stage of the proceed

and we do not think that we ought to it to be taken now in special appeal; even if it were taken in the grounds of l appeal, it appears to be worth very inasmuch as there can be no doubt e defendant's success in the summary dings was grounded upon the fact e was in possession of the disputed as of his own right, which would of cast such a slur on the plaintiff's title uld justify him in coming into Court e his title declared.

the second objection, we find that there thing illegal in what the Subordinate has done. Section 354 of the Code vil Procedure gave him the right to d the case to the Lower Court, if he ht that any question of fact essential right determination of the suit on erits had not been decided. In this the area mentioned in the amulnamah y the plaintiff, and the amount of land o be held under that amulnamah in laint. differed from each other in the quantity of land which is the sub- f dispute in this case, namely, 1 beegah tahs; and it seems to have been a very question to decide whether that ular plot of land was or was not co- by the amulnamah.

is contended that, as the first Court d the proper issue, the Subordinate ought to have decided the case him- without a remand; but whether or not oper issues were framed, the Subordi- Judge clearly states that there was no nce upon the record which could en- him to determine the question raised een the parties. The only mistake that an find in his decision is, that he has ted the Moonsiff to take evidence, and de the case *de novo*, whereas he ought, Section 354, to have directed that additional evidence with the find- ing of the Moonsiff should be sent up to him for decision.

With this modification, we uphold the decision of the Court below, and dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 5th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Collector as Receiver—Procedure—Jurisdiction.

Bissessuree Debia, *Petitioner,*

versus

Sookram Doss Mohunt and others, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Petitioner.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Opposite Party.

Where property is seized and retained by a Collector in his capacity of Receiver, his acts cannot be disputed by way of motion to discharge or get rid of the attachment.

Jackson, J.—It appears to me that this rule ought to be discharged.

In the long pending suit relating to the Akhrah of Rajgunge in the district of Burdwan, the plaintiff applied to this Court for an order under the 92nd Section of the Civil Procedure Code, and upon his application the Court thought fit to appoint a Receiver and manager of the property of the Akhrah, and the Collector of Burdwan was accordingly appointed. The petitioner before us complains that, under color of that order and appointment, certain property which was in the hands of the petitioner, some of it under purchase on the occasion of a sale for arrears of putnee rent and some of it by way of mortgage, was seized by the Collector as such Receiver, and that, upon representation made to the Collector, he at first released the property in question, but afterwards, on receiving from this Court a letter of the Deputy Registrar, accompanied by a schedule of the property belonging, or alleged to belong, to the Akhrah, the Collector again seized the property, and now retains it in his possession.

I do not express any opinion at present as to whether the schedule forwarded to the Collector along with the letter of the Deputy Registrar ought to be looked upon as part of the order of the Court, specifically directing the Collector to attach particular properties.

The Sections of the Procedure Code relating to attachment before judgment contain, amongst other things, provision for a claim to property attached before judgment being preferred and inquired into by the Court which has ordered attachment; and the Sections relating to injunctions and to the sort of order which has been made in this suit do not expressly provide for the preferring of such claims. It may be that it was the intention of the Legislature that no such claims should be preferred by reason of the different nature of the order to be made under the provisions of Section 92 and Section 81 respectively. I do not wish to decide here whether a claim could be preferred in respect of an order made under Section 92 or not. It is sufficient to say that the application before us is not such a claim.

It seems to me that the Collector, having been appointed Receiver of the property in suit, and having accepted the appointment and proceeded to act under it, acts upon his own discretion in respect of the property which he takes under his care; and that the application before us, being by way of motion to discharge or get rid of the attachment, is not the proper form in which the acts done by the Collector in his capacity of Receiver should be disputed. That, it seems to me, is sufficient to dispose of the present application.

I, therefore, think that the rule should be discharged with costs, Rupees 50.

Macpherson, J.—I wish simply to say that I do not consider that the Receiver has taken possession of the property, which is the subject of this application under any special order of this Court, and that I think that the Court cannot, on such application as the present, dispose of the questions raised between the applicant and the plaintiff.

The 5th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onooko Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Consent to evidence in another case—Wit es—Costs.

Case No. 2338 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed b Judge of Dacca, dated the 18th 1870, affirming a decision of the S dinate Judge of that District, dat 24th August 1869.

Sreenath Roy and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Goluck Chunder Sein and others (Defe ants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *A tosh Dhur* for Appellants.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter, Mohun Doss, and *Doorga Mohun* for Respondents.

Five suits having been brought to recover a b of accounts from defendants, who were alleged partners of a trading concern and as such liable, c witnesses were examined in four of the cases in the plaintiff in one of the suits was not a party, at his request, the evidence taken in those cas allowed to be used as evidence in his case, and th witnesses were discharged. Two days after applied to have the witnesses re-examined, gi reason for his application, which was refused.

HELD that the refusal was justified in the a of any new reason for the re-examination.

Where a party's admissions and conduct indu supposition of his liability for a claim, the Court him his costs, although the suit against him fou such claim was dismissed.

Mookerjee, J.—THIS is a suit to re Rupees 3,349 as balance of account the defendants, who are seven in numb the ground that the defendants we partners of an *aurut* or trading co and as such are liable for this sum adv by the plaintiffs to that firm.

One of the defendants, Goluck Chu Sein, pleaded that he was not a memb the firm; that he never took any money the plaintiffs, nor had he authorized person to borrow money from the plain and that, therefore, he should be exone from the claim. He also pleaded that plaintiffs' claim was barred by the St of Limitation.

b

oth the Courts have released this de-dant, Goluck Chunder Sein, from any lity, holding that he was not a partner e defendants' firm. The Lower Courts held that a portion of the plaintiffs' is barred by limitation. They have decreed a sum of 501 rupees, the for which was not barred by lapse of ; but they have decreed that sum st the Paul defendants only.

e special appeal to this Court is on llowing points :—

rst.—That the Courts below were wrong ot examining certain witnesses of the tiffs, for whom a special application was to the Court.

econdly.—That the Courts below were g in exonerating Goluck Chunder from laim.

hirdly.—It was contended that the Low-ppellate Court has misconstrued the evi-e of Ram Kinkur, who, it is said, has d the fact that Goluck Chunder was a er of the defendant's *aurut;* and lastly, there are other evidence in the case prove the said fact, but that the Judge erlooked them altogether.

regards the first objection, we find that were five suits instituted against the dants in the Court of the Subordinate . The suit out of which this appeal was numbered 31. There were four suits by other plaintiffs against these dants. Certain witnesses were examin-the 28th July last by the Subordinate in the other cases in which the appel-as not a party. It also appears that, at quest of this plaintiff, the evidence taken other cases of these witnesses was d to be used as evidence in this case, hen the witnesses were discharged. days after this, an application was by the appellant before us, asking the dinate Judge to re-examine these wit-s in the case instituted by him, giving ason at all why it was necessary to exa-them again, specially when it appears e was quite satisfied with the order d on the 28th July that the evidence in the other cases should be used as nce in his case. The Subordinate Judge, s application of the 30th July, passed der that the evidence taken in the other would be treated as evidence in the tiff's case, and that all the five cases would tried together. There appears to be no other application made to the Subordinate Judge, and no reason shown to him why it was necessary that they should be examined again in this case. It is now alleged that it was necessary to examine these witnesses on the point of limitation, which point was not raised in the other cases. But it appears that there is nothing to show that that was the object of the request. On the 28th July, when the witnesses were examined, the plaintiff knew the facts to which they had deposed, and knowing that was content with the order then passed—that the evidence of those witnesses would be used as evidence in his case; he thus allowed the Court to dismiss these witnesses. Surely the Subordinate Judge, in the absence of any new reason assigned for their re examination, was justified in refusing to call them again. It appears also that, after the order of the 30th July was passed, the plaintiff seemed perfectly satisfied with that order; and he did not bring the fact which is now stated to us to the notice of the Subordinate Judge, that he wished to examine them on a point quite separate from that on which they had been examined in the other cases. The plaintiff, having thus allowed the witnesses to go away without any request to have them examined in his case, should not, we think, be allowed, without any new reason, to call the same witnesses again. His suit has been dismissed by both the Courts on limitation; and it is now stated that these witnesses, if examined, would have proved that the claim was not barred. Nothing of this sort was urged before the Court below; and we do not think that the witnesses should be harassed by being repeatedly summoned before the Court, when the plaintiff, after perusing their testimony, was satisfied that it was sufficient, for the purposes of his case, that that evidence should be used as evidence in his cause.

As regards the point of limitation, the Judge finds that there is no evidence to prove that the adjustment of accounts took place at the end of the year 1272; and as the claim is preferred beyond three years, we think that the Judge was perfectly right in overruling the contention that the claim was not barred.

With reference to the point as to whether the Judge has misconstrued the evidence of the witness Ram Kinkur, we find, on a perusal of that evidence, that there is no ground for such a contention. Ram Kinkur does not prove that Goluck Chunder was actual-

ly a partner in the firm. A great portion of the testimony of this witness consists of his own opinion, which is no evidence. On his being asked whether Goluck Chunder was a partner, he stated in his deposition-in-chief that he heard that Goluck Chunder was a partner. This is no legal evidence at all. It is true that he stated afterwards that Goluck Chunder consented to pay the liabilities of that firm, but in cross-examination the witness admitted that Goluck Chunder consented to pay the same purely out of "good nature." Then it is said that there was a certain communication by Goluck Chunder to this witness, by which Goluck Chunder agreed to pay the liabilities of the firm as a partner. The Judge very rightly observes that, as the document was not produced, he could not rely upon the memory of that man as to the real contents of that absent document. We do not find that, according to the evidence of Ram Kinkur, any such clear case has been made out for the plaintiff, which can entitle him to a decree against Goluck Chunder Sein.

In this case it is admitted that Goluck Chunder's name did not appear as a partner in the firm. It is not also shown that, when the plaintiff advanced the sum of money to the *aurut*, he knew that Goluck Chunder was a partner, or that he ever believed that he was so, or advanced the money on his credit. The utmost that the evidence of the witnesses whom the plaintiff produced makes out is that Goluck Chunder advanced a sum of 1,000 rupees to one Doorga Churn Banerjee, a friend of Goluck Chunder, whose name appeared as a partner according to the plaintiff's own witnesses only in 1273, after the plaintiff had advanced the money to the firm. It is said that Goluck Chunder was a dormant partner, or a *benamee* partner in the name of Doorga Churn. We have gone into the whole of the evidence adduced by the plaintiff on this point, and we are of opinion that the witness does not make out that Goluck Chunder was admitted a partner. It is not at all shown by that evidence that the old partners ever consented to his admission as a partner in the firm, and assigned a share of the profits to him—none of those circumstances which would constitute Goluck Chunder a partner are made out by the evidence. The fact of one witness stating that *maskabar* used to be sent to Goluck Chunder would be no sufficient or conclusive evidence of the fact of his being a partner. It is admitted by Goluck Chunder that he did advance a sum of money to Doorga Churn, and if *ma bar* had been sent to him, it might have b sent to him to enable him to see how business in which his friend Doorga C was concerned was going on, and wheth money advanced to the said Doorga C was safe or not. It does not appear that that circumstance of itself is suff to prove that Doorga Churn was a partn

We also think that the Judge has tioned Ram Kinkur only, because pe the evidence of that man was put for to him as one of the best witnesses of p iff. He has given reasons in his judg why the testimony of that witness di satisfy him as to the fact of Goluck Ch being a partner of the defendant's firm. silence as to the other witnesses, I can be accounted for only by this fact he does not consider that those wit make out plaintiff's case, when the pla best witness, Ram Kinkur, has not s him. Indeed, we have gone over th dence ourselves, and we are of opinion on the testimony of those witnesse plaintiff was not entitled to a decree Goluck Chunder as a partner of t fendant's firm.

There has been an objection under tion 348 by the respondent, Goluck Ch to the effect that he was entitled to the incurred by him in the Courts below, Goluck Chunder, has been exonerated the claim of the plaintiff. But we that the Judge was right in refusing Although Goluck was not satisfa proved to be a partner, still his adm that he had advanced a sum of mon one of the partners, and the willingness nifested by him to pay the liabilities firm, might have induced the plaint bring him into the category of defen We would not interfere with the order Judge refusing to give him costs.

We dismiss the appeal with costs.

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The 6th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating hief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *udge.*

Will—Probate—Recorder—Procedure—Jurisdiction—High Court.

In the Matter of

Mee Tsee, *Petitioner.*

Mr. W. A. Montriou for Petitioner.

person who is not the next of kin, and who has erest in the estate of a testator, has no right to e the grant of the probate or dispute the validity e will.

e mere fact of errors of procedure having been itted in a trial before a Recorder would not war- the High Court in saying that, in pronouncing t the validity of a Will after investigation, he had without jurisdiction, or in interfering with his ion.

orman, C. J.—THE petitioner applied e Recorder of Moulmein for probate of last will and testament of one Nga Boo, rmese resident of Moulmein, as executrix hat will. As far as we can make out, application appears to have been made he 21st December 1870. From the pro- lings as brought before us by an unverified ion presented on behalf of the petitioner, ing the signatures of Messrs. Rogers and ifry as her attorneys, it would appear the original application describes Mee e as petitioner and Mee Yoo as respond- It is a matter of fact, which also ap- s from the said proceedings, that prior e presentation of that application, Mee had presented a petition for Letters of inistration to the estate of Nga Boo, on being sworn, she had deposed that was the widow of the late Nga Boo. t petition also, if correctly abstracted in proceedings of the Recorder, is headed eing a petition by Mee Yoo adversely to e Tsee and others, who are described as pondents.

These two petitions having come on before Recorder, it appears that repeated ap- cations were made to him for adjournments, n time to time, in order that the parties ght come to an amicable settlement. entually on the 20th March 1871, after ring the evidence adduced on the part of Mee Tsee, the petitioner now before us, in support of the will, and she and her witnesses having been cross-examined at a considerable length by the counsel on behalf of Mee Yoo, the alleged widow of Nga Boo, the Recorder pronounced the will to be a forgery.

We have been asked to interfere with the decision of the Recorder upon the ground that Mee Yoo gave no proof that she was the widow of Nga Boo, and that, consequently, she was not entitled to be heard in opposition to the will. We have no doubt of the soundness of the proposition on which Mr. Montriou's contention is based, namely, that a person who is not the next of kin, and who has no interest in the estate of a testator, has no right to oppose the grant of the probate or dispute the validity of the will. In England it has been held that even a creditor cannot controvert the validity of a will, because it is a matter of indifference whether he should receive his debt from the executor or from an administrator. It is clear, however, that in this case some evidence was given, namely, the evidence of the alleged widow herself to prove that she was the widow of, or, in other words, had been married to, the deceased. And it also appears that upon the trial her counsel was ready to give additional proof in support of that allegation. We are not prepared to say, looking at the course which the case took, and the consent of the parties to adjournments from time to time for the purpose of amicable settlement, that the Recorder was in any way wrong in treating the alleged widow as a person having a right to contest the validity of the will.

The next objection made is that the Recorder did not proceed regularly according to the provisions of the Succession Act, *i. e.*, Act X. of 1865, by directing the party propounding the will to file a plaint, and did not proceed as in a regular suit under Act VIII. of 1859. The proceedings of the Recorder may or may not have been irregular in this respect. But the case is not before us on appeal, and we cannot deal with it as on appeal. The mere fact that there may be errors of procedure of a serious character in the trial before the Recorder would not justify us in saying that, in pronouncing against the validity of this will upon the investigation which actually took place, the Recorder did so otherwise than in the exercise of the jurisdiction which was vested in him.

That being so, even if we had power of superintendence over the Recorder's Court, it appears to us that the case is not one in which we should be warranted in interfering with his decision, or indeed should have any power of interference. If the petitioner is dissatisfied with the decision of the Recorder, she may appeal to the proper tribunal.

We reject the application.

The 6th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Prosecution under Chapter XI., Criminal Procedure Code—Jurisdiction—Abetment.

In the Matter of

Ishan Chunder Ghose, *Petitioner.*

Baboo Tarucknath Dutt for Petitioner.

Where an offence is committed against a Court of first instance, the Appellate Court to which it is subordinate is competent to sanction a prosecution under Chapter XI. of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Sanction to such a prosecution may be given, even if the offence is abetment.

Glover, J.—THE petitioner complains of the Judge's order allowing a prosecution under Chapter XI. of the Code of Criminal Procedure to be instituted against him.

The only ground of law taken in his petition is that, as the inquiry regarding the alleged "interpolations" was conducted under orders of the High Court, that Court alone had power to sanction a prosecution. There is no ground for this contention. The offence, if offence it be proved to be, was committed against the Court of the Judge in which the appeal was being heard, just as much as against the Judge of the Court of first instance; but in any case the Moonsiff's Court was directly subordinate to the Judge's, and the Judge could, therefore, give the necessary sanction, even if the offence had not been actually committed against his Court.

Another objection, which, however, is not to be found in the petition, is that, as the only offence of which Ishan Chunder Ghose could be convicted would be abetment of an offence relating to documents, and as the abetment Section is not included amongst those in connection with which sanction to a prosecution under Sections 169 and [illegible] Code of Criminal Procedure, can be given [illegible] Judge had no jurisdiction to give such [illegible] tion.

The point was discussed in the case [illegible] Queen *versus* Mohesh Chunder Chatt[illegible] 6. Weekly Reporter, p. 20, and it was [illegible] decided that, when a prisoner is sent [illegible] a Civil Court before a Magistrate on a [illegible] of forgery, it is perfectly competent [illegible] Magistrate to send him for trial on a [illegible] either of forgery, or of using the doc[illegible] knowing it to be forged, or of "abe[illegible] forgery.

There seems to have been no [illegible] jurisdiction on the part of the Judge, [illegible] this Court will not interfere with a sa[illegible] given under Sections 169 and 170, Co[illegible] Criminal Procedure, unless it is clearly [illegible] that the sanctioning officer acted altog[illegible] without jurisdiction. (Ram Pershad Ha[illegible] 5 Weekly Reporter, p. 24.)

The application is rejected.

The 6th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwark[illegible] Mitter, *Judges.*

Partnership—Balances—Decree.

Case No. 215 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision pass[illegible] the Subordinate Judge of Dinag[illegible] dated the 8th September 1870.

Mun Mohinee Dossee and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Ichamoyee Dossee (Plaintiff), *Respond[illegible]*

Mr. Cowie and *Baboos Mohendro L[illegible] Shome* and *Rajendro Nath Bose* Appellants.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Bhugobutty Churn Ghose* for Respondent.

In a suit of the nature of one for dissolution of p[illegible]nership, it is incorrect to make an absolute decree [illegible] a specific sum of outstanding balances, without anyth[illegible] to guide the Court in fixing that amount. No am[illegible] ought to be decreed without satisfactory proof of [illegible] having been realized and misappropriated.

Bayley, J.—WE think that the decree of [illegible] Lower Court, as it stands, must be modi[illegible]

gards items 4, 5, and 6; *viz.*, 4, Goods Stock-in-trade; 5, Outstanding Balances; 6, Amount in Cash. This is, in fact, the point urged in appeal, all other points given up by Mr. Cowie. It is said that is, in fact, a suit of the nature of a suit dissolution of partnership; and there- the decree should have been made after the adjustment of the accounts, or to the taking of an account.

regard to item No. 4, it is urged that is a finding by the Lower Court that 22,712-8 annas was on account of , and that it was not in the power of laintiffs to obtain accounts as they had dispossessed from the place of business; e still think that the decree should be ct to taking an account, the finding of Lower Court, however, being otherwise turbed.

e finding of the Lower Court as to the amount should also stand; but before decree issues, it must be subject to any, that may be shown after adjustment ccounts as far as the accounts can be e available.

s to the item 5, we think the decree is g. An absolute decree for a specific of outstanding balances without any- to guide the Court in fixing that nt is incorrect. It must be shown far the outstanding balances are real- e, and no amount ought to be decreed st the defendants until its realization misappropriation by them is satisfac- proved.

e reverse the decree of the Lower Court, remand the case to the Court for the ose of passing a new decree on the ciple above stated. The appellants must the costs of this appeal. The costs after emand will follow the result.

The 6th April 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Mortgagees—Right of Redemption.

Case No. 1384 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Sarun, dated the 23rd March 1869, affirming a decision of the Sudder Ameen of that District, dated the 29th February 1868.

Shaikh Muzhur Hossein (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Hur Pershad Roy and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf* for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

A mortgagor's right to redeem what he has mortgaged is indefeasible, and cannot be interfered with by unauthorized acts of the mortgagees, *e. g.*, a butwarra entered into by the latter.

Glover, J.—On the first hearing of this case on special appeal, a postponement was, at the request of both parties, made for the purpose of endeavoring to arrange matters by compromise. No such arrangement has been come to, and we, therefore, proceed to dispose of the appeal. The special respondent, we may observe, is not represented by pleader—Mr. Allan, who appeared for him on the former occasion, having declined to act on this.

The facts are somewhat complicated.

Kabul Mahomed, on his death, left behind him two sons, Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh, and one grandson, Asudoollah.

His property consisted of three mouzahs, Bhugwanpore, Dherajpore, and Bhulwarah.

By an arrangement, with which we have nothing to do in this case, the shares of the heirs were fixed at 11 annas 12¾ gundahs for Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh, and 4 annas 7¼ gundahs for Asudoollah, in each and all of the three above-named mouzahs. The property was all of it mortgaged—the 4 annas 7¼ gundahs share to the ancestor of the plaintiffs, and 11 annas 12¾ gundahs to Ram Churn Bhuggut and others, defendants in this suit.

The mortgagees of Asudoollah's share, who seem to have foreclosed, and the mortgagees of the shares of Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh, joined together in a butwarra-suit under Regulation XIX. of 1841—the result of which was that, in lieu of the 4 annas 7¼ gundahs share of all three mouzahs, the mortgagees of Asudoollah got possession of two of them, *viz.*, Bhugwanpore and Dherajpore in their entirety; and the mortgagees of Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh, in lieu of their 11 annas 12¾ gundahs share in the three mouzahs, got entire possession of

Mouzah Bhulwarah. This took place in April 1849.

Some years after, in 1863 apparently, the representatives of Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh sued to redeem, making the holders of what had been Asudoollah's share defendants, and got a decree declaring their right to redeem and to take possession of their share, *viz.*, 11 annas 12¾ gundahs, in each of the three mouzahs. They took possession accordingly.

The plaintiffs, by this decree, lost the benefit of the butwarra-arrangement, which gave them the entire mouzahs of Bhugwanpore and Dherajpore, and brought a suit to have the butwarra cancelled, and to have their 4 annas 7¼ share in all three mouzahs. In this they failed, on the ground that the partition made by the Collector could not be set aside. The High Court, before which the case came on appeal, appears to have declared (6 Weekly Reporter, p. 314) that the partition by the Collector could not be set aside in a suit in its then form; and that the mortgagor-decree-holders ought not to have taken possession of their shares in each of the three mouzahs, but should have contented themselves with the equivalent given to their mortgagees by the butwarra, *viz.*, the entire mouzah of Bhulwarah, of which they were in possession; and that the plaintiff's remedy was to bring a suit to recover possession of those portions of Mouzahs Bhugwanpore and Dherajpore from which the representatives of Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh had ousted them. The plaintiffs took the advice thus said to have been given to them, and the result is the present suit.

Both Lower Courts have decreed the plaintiff's claim, holding that, by the terms of the butwarra, the representatives of Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh had no right to a share in all three mouzahs, but only to mouzah Bhulwarah.

The defendant who brings his special appeal is a 10 pie 13 d. sharer in the estate left by Kadir and Imam.

It appears to us that he ought to succeed. In the first place, we do not understand how a butwarra entered into between the mortgagees of the estate could bind the mortgagors, or change the nature of the security given by them. Kadir Buksh and Imam Buksh mortgaged an 11 annas 12¾ gundahs share in three mouzahs, and their heirs had, it seems to us, a perfect right to redeem that share, notwithstanding the arrangement c to by the mortgagees. It is not alleged the mortgagors were parties to the butw suit. The only thing stated against the that they took no steps to get it set a but clearly they were not bound to take such steps or to move in the matter in way. So long as they were unable to re the mortgage, it mattered nothing to what arrangements their mortgagees choose to make. Their right to redeem they had mortgaged was indefeasible could not be interfered with by unauth acts of their mortgagees. It seems that the heirs of Kadir Buksh and Buksh were perfectly right in bringing suit to redeem as they did, and were justified in taking possession of their per shares.

We observe, moreover, that the dec of the Civil Court of the 17th August which declared the defendant's right to deem an 11 annas 12¾ gundahs sha each of the three mouzahs, has never reversed, and is now final; so that case could the plaintiff, as it appears succeed in his present suit.

The special appeal is allowed and judgment of the Court below reverse respect of the interest, *viz.*, 10 pie 11 d., by the special appellant in the estate co ing of all three mouzahs, with all costs.

The 6th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Ju*

Agreement to execute conveyance—Rej tion—Evidence.

Case No. 1768 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Judge of Backergunge, dated 23rd May 1870, reversing a decision the Moonsiff of that District, dated 31st March 1870.

Asgur Ali Shikdar (Defendant), *Appella*

versus

Mothoora Nath Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

h

aboos Luleet Chunder Sein and *Gopeenath Mookerjee* for Appellant.

aboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Kashee Kant Sein* for Respondent.

are a party borrowing money gave the lender an agreeing to execute a conveyance of certain landperty:

n that the instrument was, in substance, an agree- the registration of which was optional, and which be given in evidence in a suit for specific per- ce of the agreement to execute the conveyance ch it stipulates.

rman, C. J.—THIS was a suit brought plaintiff Mothoora Nath Ghose against defendant to compel him to execute a yance of certain landed property in rdance with the terms of an ekrar or ement, dated the 25th of Magh 1274, or 7th of February 1866, which was in the following:—

To Mothoora Nath Ghose.

, Asgur Shikdar, son of Asbab Ali ikdar, inhabitant of Ramchunderpore, annah Nulchitee, do hereby execute ekrar puttro (deed of agreement) to following effect: I, having been arrest- under a writ of arrest in the execution- of Mahomed Omer, am now in custo- of the peon. As I have no means to the amount of the said decree, I have n from you a sum of Rupees 100 on condition that, in lieu of the said sum, by selling to you the 4-annas share of 5 ces of the property of Asad Ali Sirdir ch I purchased from the auction-pur- ser Zinnut Ali Khondkar on the 4th st 1271 (being the property mentioned the said deed of sale), will, within three s from this date, execute a deed of sale of. The original deed of sale which d I have now given to you. I will give the other document along with the la. If I fail to execute the kobala hin the time fixed, then you will be at rty to have the kobala executed by tituting a suit in the Court, and to real- any damage that may be sustained by n."

e defendant denied the ekrar; but laintiff proved that the defendant, who es at a place called Ramchunderpore, arrested in Burrisaul for a sum of es 100, obtained from the plaintiff that which was borrowed by the plaintiff at ddar's shop in the town, and executed in favor the document above set forth. epting this evidence as true, the Judge made a decree directing the defendant to execute a conveyance to the plaintiff.

It has been urged before us that, under Section 49 of Act XX. of 1866, the document cannot be received in evidence, first, because it is an instrument which purports or operates to create a title in a tenure or land of the value of 100 rupees; and secondly, because it acknowledges the receipt of 100 rupees on account of the creation of an interest in land.

Many cases have been cited; but the nearest to the present is one decided by Mr. Justice Kemp and Mr. Justice Phear on the 30th March 1868, Lilamber Singh, defendant, appellant, *versus* Futteh Chand Sahoo, respondent.

We think, however, that in the present case the document is, in substance, a mere contract to convey the property, and that it does not purport to create, and was not intended to create an interest in the land. It is not immaterial to consider that it does not contain any such specification of the property to be sold as, with reference to the provisions of Section 21, would have enabled the parties to register it, had they been desirous of doing so. Had they presented it for registration, the Registrar would doubtless not have accepted it. In the hurry of such a transaction as the raising of money to prevent a man from being sent to jail in pursuance of a warrant of arrest, one would expect that there would be no time for the preparation of a formal document, and the parties would, therefore, naturally stipulate that this agreement should be carried out afterwards by a document drawn up in proper legal form.

The late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes Peacock, points out that in this Registration Act the distinction between agreement and conveyance is clearly preserved, 11 Weekly Reporter, p. 520, that the registration of agreements is optional. Agreement for leases are provided for by Clause 4 of Section 17 as explained in the interpretation-clause of the Act. But there is nothing which shows that Clause 2 is intended to include agreements for the sale of property or for the creation of interests in property.

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss contended, and we think with good reason, that Clause 3 of Section 17 is intended to include only receipts for money for the creation of rights and receipts for money paid on account of contract to create interest in land.

We think that the instrument here was in substance simply an agreement, the registration of which was optional, and that such agreement may be given in evidence in a suit for the specific performance of the agreement to execute the conveyance for which it stipulates.

We, therefore, dismiss the appeal with costs.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Execution—Bona fides.

In the Matter of

Kaleedass Ghose, *Petitioner.*

Baboo Taruckhath Dutt for Petitioner.

Paying tullubana and taking out process evince a sufficient *bonâ-fide* intention of obtaining the fruits of a decree.

Kemp, J.—We think this application must be rejected. The petitioner is the judgment-debtor. Execution was taken out by the judgment-creditor within three years from the date of the decree. The judgment-creditor deposited tullubana, and caused the service of a notice on the judgment-debtor. The case was then struck off. The first Court found that the proceedings taken by the judgment-creditors were merely colorable proceedings to keep the decree alive, and that they were not *bonâ-fide* proceedings taken with the intention of enforcing the decree. The Judge came to the contrary opinion. He finds that the judgment-creditors admittedly filed the petition to execute within the time allowed by law, although at the eleventh hour; that the judgment-debtor was bound to pay when the decree was passed; and that, looking to the conduct of the parties and the facts stated by them, the proceedings were *bonâ fide*, and not merely colorable.

In special appeal it is contended that the Judge has not viewed the case in the light in which several decisions of this Court, which are referred to, required him to view it in. One of the decisions alluded to is to be found in Volume XIII., Weekly Reporter, page 41. In that case the Judge in the Lower Court observed that the presumption was that the proceedings were *bonâ fide* [illegible] *mala fides* was proved; and the le[illegible] Judges remanded the case for the Jud[illegible] come to a more distinct finding, and d[illegible] whether the proceedings were taken wit[illegible] intention of enforcing the decree or [illegible] colorable for the purpose of keeping it [illegible] Mr. Justice Markby observes that, for [illegible] ceedings to be *bonâ fide*, they must be [illegible] for the purpose of obtaining the fruits [illegible] decree. In this case the Judge has fou[illegible] a fact that these proceedings were *bonâ* [illegible] and it seems to us that the decree-hold[illegible] paying tullubana, and taking out pr[illegible] evinced sufficient *bonâ-fide* intentio[illegible] obtaining the fruits of the decree, a[illegible] by Mr. Justice Markby.

We, therefore, reject the application.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. P[illegible] *Judges.*

Privy Council—Costs.

Case No. 6 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order [illegible] by the Judge of Patna, dated the [illegible] December 1870, affirming an order [illegible] the Subordinate Judge of that Di[illegible] dated the 10th September 1870.

Mussamut Oomatool Fatima and oth[illegible] (Judgment-debtors), *Appellants,*

versus

Azhur Ali (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Appell[illegible]

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Chu[illegible] Madhub Ghose* for Respondent.

Where the Privy Council reversed the decrees o[illegible] Courts in India with costs in each, and dismis[illegible] suit with costs specifying a sum as the costs [illegible] appeal to itself:

Held that such sum did not include the c[illegible] translation, &c., incurred in the High Court.

Ainslie, J.—In this case the decr[illegible] the Privy Council reverses the decre[illegible] the three Courts in India with costs in [illegible] Court; it also dismisses the suit with [illegible] and specifies the sum of £490-10-10 st[illegible] as the costs of the appeal to the [illegible] Council. The question is whether this [illegible]

£490-10-10 includes the costs of trans-n, &c., incurred in this Court. We do entertain any doubt that the costs ed in England were only the costs red before the Privy Council, and that do not include the costs of translation, incurred in this country. The terms e decree are ample to cover all costs red in any stage of the suit, and the t below rightly overruled the appel-' objection.

here has been a cross-appeal on the of the respondent for interest on ; but we are of opinion that, as no inter-as been provided for in the decree of Privy Council, it cannot be allowed by this Court.

he appeal is dismissed with costs, one mohur being allowed as pleader's fees. cross-appeal is also dismissed.

aul, J.—I concur.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Hindoo family—Female member—Joint acquisition—Presumption.

Case No. 18 of 1871.

ular Appeal from a decision passed by e Moonsiff of Nattore, dated the 30th eptember 1869.

Chunder Nath Moitro (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

o Komul Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

oos Romesh Chunder Mitter, Kalee ohun Doss, and *Doorga Mohun Doss* r Appellant.

boos Bhowanee Churn Dutt and *Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee* for Respondent.

e wives and mothers of the members of a joint vided Hindoo family so long as they continue to in the family and are supported out of its income just as much members of that family as their nds and sons; and where property is purchased e name of one such female member during the of her minor son, the presumption of joint acquisi-arising in such cases cannot be rebutted by the fact that her name was used in making the e or entered in the Collector's books as the pur-er.

Mitter, J.—We are of opinion that the decision of the Moonsiff who tried this case in the first instance is correct, and therefore ought to be affirmed. We think it has been abundantly proved by the oral and documentary evidence on the record of this case, and indeed we may say that the point has not been seriously contested before us by the pleader for the appellant, that the property in dispute was purchased in the name of Bissessuree Dassee at a time when the said Bissessuree and her son (who was then a minor) were living together with the plaintiff Kristo Komul and his sister-in-law, Janokee Dassee, as members of a joint undivided Hindoo family which was in possession of a considerable amount of real and personal property far exceeding in value the sum of Rs. 2,000, with which the property in question is admitted to have been purchased. These circumstances are, in our opinion, sufficient to raise the presumption that the said property was purchased with the common funds of the joint family, and for the benefit of all its members. It has been argued that the presumption of joint acquisition arising from the circumstance of a Hindoo family being joint and undivided is not applicable to this case, inasmuch as Bissessuree, the party in whose name the disputed property was purchased, was a female, and as such had no proprietary right in the family-estate while her son was alive, who was the heir-at-law of her deceased husband.

We are of opinion that this contention is not sound. That Bissessuree was one of the members of the joint undivided family is beyond all question; and although her interest in the family-estate was not of a proprietary character, there can be no doubt whatever that she was entitled to be, and was in point of fact, maintained at the time in question out of the proceeds of that estate. The wives and mothers of the members of a joint undivided Hindoo family, so long as they continue to live in the family, and are supported out of its income, are just as much members of that family as their husbands and sons; and as unity of possession is one of the essential characteristics of a joint undivided Hindoo family, no difference in the nature of the interests possessed by the different members thereof can affect the presumption with which we have to deal in this case. So far as the ordinary and usual course of things is concerned, the practice of making *benamee* purchases in the names of female members of joint undivided

Hindoo families is just as much rife in this country as that of making such purchases in the names of male members; and if we compare the relative positions of these two classes of members and the means and facilities respectively enjoyed by them for acquiring properties on their own account, we cannot help thinking that the presumption against such acquisition is no less strong in the former case than in the latter.

Much stress has been laid by the pleader for the appellant on the remarks made by their Lordships of Her Majesty's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case reported in 10 Moore's Indian Appeal cases, page 529. But the circumstances of that case are altogether different from those of the present. That case arose in a district governed by the Mitakshara Law of Inheritance, and the question which their Lordships had to determine was whether Thakooranee Dassee, one of the parties concerned in that case, was holding separate possession of a particular property, which was claimed by some of her husband's relatives as part of the joint undivided property of a joint undivided family consisting of themselves and the husband of the said Thakooranee Dassee. Indeed, in a case of this description, the fact of the name of a childless widow like Thakooranee Dassee being recorded in the Collectorate books after the death of her husband would afford a strong presumption of exclusive ownership on her part; for, according to the Mitakshara Law of Inheritance, a widow has no right to succeed to the estate of her deceased husband, in preference to the co-parceners of that husband, who were living with him as members of a joint undivided Hindoo family at the time of his death. She is only entitled to maintenance. In the present case, however, we have to deal with an undivided case of joint undivided Hindoo family, and a purchase made in the name of one of the members of that family at a time when there was abundant common property to enable the joint family to make that purchase. Indeed, the very first words used by their Lordships in the passage read to us in the course of the discussion go to show that, under ordinary circumstances, no presumption whatever would be afforded by the fact that the name of a female member of the family has been used. Their Lordships observe: "That Thakooranee was in her "time the sole recorded proprietor of the ta- "looks is incontestable. This in an ordi- "nary case might be a circumstance of "moment, because it has been ruled, "is consistent with reason, that one m "ber of a joint Hindoo family may "so recorded on behalf of the fam These words conclusively show that, their Lordships' opinion, the mere of the registration of Thakooranee's in the Collector's books would not under ordinary circumstances, afforded presumption whatever of her indepe right and exclusive possession.

Their Lordships go on to say: "B "the present case arises the question "the name in which the property w "corded should be that of the female "than that of the male member of "family, particularly when, upon the "plication of the ordinary Hindoo La "the facts as stated by the plaintiffs, "male member (Lall Singh) would, upo "uncle's death, have been entitled to "whole estate, and the female m "(Thakooranee) would have had o "right to maintenance." It is said th word "*particularly*" used in this pa goes to show that the fact of regis above referred to was sufficient to r presumption of exclusive possession, pendent of any question arising out o Mitakshara Law of Inheritance. But clear that there were other facts and cumstances involved in that case would be sufficient to explain away th of that word. In that case there w allegation of purchase in the nam Thakooranee. The name of Thakoo was registered in the Collector's books the death of her husband; and as Th ranee would not have been the heir o husband, if the family had really been and undivided, as contended for by Singh, the fact of Lall Singh having a Thakooranee's name to be so registered the death of her husband would be of a strong argument against the exi of the joint undivided family relied by the former in the pleadings. In case, on the contrary, there can be doubt whatever that the family was a one, and the presumption of joint acq tion cannot be rebutted by the mere that Bissessuree's name was used in m the purchase.

The plaintiff's case, however, does rest upon this presumption alone. He given a large body of oral and docume evidence, not only to prove that that

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in question was made with the com- funds of the joint undivided family, but o establish the fact, which does not ap- to have been rebutted in any manner y reliable counter-evidence, that the property continued to be in the posses- of the plaintiff, Kristo Komul, as the ger of the joint family, down to the tion of the present suit. The Moon- as, therefore, quite right in starting the presumption of Hindoo Law re- d to by us; and we entirely concur with in the following remarks made in his ent: "The inference I have drawn n the High Court decree published in e 3 of the Special Number of the ekly Reporter, is further confirmed by concurrent testimony of respectable d trustworthy witnesses, who all depos- that in 1254, B. S., the family were t in mess and estate, and had a large t fund, out of which the property in dis- e might have been purchased." We have through this evidence as carefully as we d: and after considering all the comments h were made upon it by the pleader for ppellant, we feel ourselves bound to say ficient reason has been shown to us for ting that evidence, or for coming to any r conclusion upon it than that arrived at he Moonsiff who had the best oppor- y of testing the respectability of the sses, their demeanour while under ex- ation, and their inclination to speak the . The evidence of one of the persons sold the property, *viz.*, Keshub Chunder, in our opinion, entitled to particular ht. The whole context of his deposi- goes to show that he was not actuated ny motive either in favour of the plaint- or defendants; and although at this nce of time he could not speak to facts h had occurred at the time of the sale, that degree of precision and accuracy of il which could have been expected from if the event had been a recent one, e is one statement made by him which not been refuted or disproved in any nner whatever by the appellant, *viz.*, that purchase-money was received by him and co-vendors from the hands of the plaint- Kristo Komul. It has been argued that account-books filed by the plaintiff have n tampered with in the particular place re the entry relating to this particular action is made; but after carefully ex- ning the book both in that place as well other places, we feel ourselves bound to that there is no ground whatever to sup- port this allegation. There were no special interpolations or erasures in that place as far as we could find, and the appearance of the book is certainly in favor of its genuineness. It appears to have been kept in the ordinary course of business, and is also proved by the testimony of Shib Chunder, who positively swears that he made the entry in question with his own hand.

So far as the appellant is concerned, we feel no hesitation in saying that he has completely failed to produce any reliable evidence to meet the large body of oral and documentary evidence produced by the plaintiff. The few witnesses examined by him are, as the Moonsiff remarks, men of no character or position in life; and looking to the means and opportunities enjoyed by those witnesses for knowing anything about the facts of this case, we cannot but concur with the Moonsiff in rejecting their testimony as utterly valueless.

Some stress has been laid by the pleader for the appellant upon a written statement filed by the plaintiff, Kristo Komul, in the suit brought against him by Bissessuree and Janokee to obtain their shares of the joint family-estate. It is true that the plaintiff did in that written statement allege that the property in question was acquired from his own exclusive funds, just in the same way as he alleged that the other properties which were claimed in that suit by Bissessuree and Janokee were acquired by him and by his wife out of their own funds. But this last allegation was rejected by the Court as not sufficiently made out in the face of the ordinary presumption of joint ownership arising from the existence of a joint Hindoo family; and we cannot help thinking that the first allegation also was of the same character. Whatever inferences might be justly drawn from this circumstance against the truth of the plaintiff's case have been, in our opinion, sufficiently rebutted by the mass of oral and documentary evidence produced by him in this case in order to prove that the property now in dispute was the joint property of the family; and we should not, therefore, be justified in dismissing the suit simply on the ground that there is a contradiction between his present allegation and the allegation put forward by him in the written statement above referred to.

Upon the whole, then, we think that the conclusion arrived at by the Moonsiff is

correct, and we therefore dismiss this appeal. We think that the plaintiff ought not to be allowed any costs in this litigation, because the defendant is a decree-holder who is an utter stranger to the family, and who has some ground for saying that, if he was at all misled in opposing this suit, he was so misled, at least to a certain extent, by the conduct of the plaintiff himself in Janokee's case. Each party, therefore, must bear his own costs in this litigation.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Non-transferable tenures—Zemindars' rights—Section 27, Act X., 1859—Incumbrances—Act VIII. (B. C.), 1865—Buildings—Rights of builder.

Case No. 1820 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 12th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 29th September 1869.

Shib Doss Banerjee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant*,

versus

Bamun Doss Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss, Grish Chunder Mookerjee, and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Appellant.

Baboo Taruck Nath Dutt for Respondent.

A zemindar is not bound to recognize the sale of a tenure which is not transferable or to accept the purchaser as a tenant; the rule that he is entitled to his rent as an entire demand upon a liability which cannot be sub-divided or distributed without his consent being clearly recognized in Section 27, Act X. of 1859.

If a piece of land constituting a tenure is sold without the consent of the zemindar, the purchaser can be only treated as holding a rent-free tenure subject to that of the original tenant, such rent-free holding being an incumbrance which can be avoided by the purchaser when the tenure itself is sold under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865.

A house built on a tenure cannot be considered "an incumbrance" within the meaning of that word in Section 16, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865.

A landlord may object to the erection of brick-b on land let for the purpose of cultivation, and ob order restraining his ryot from thus altering the ch ter of the tenure; but if he remains passive, and the house to be built, he cannot afterwards be he say that the tenant had done any wrong. Sh tenancy determine, the landlord would be the ow the soil, the tenant of the house.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a special a by the defendant from a decree of the A tional Judge of Nuddea, Mr. Pepper, a ing to the plaintiff possession of 7 cot chittacks of land on which a house is b

The land in dispute is part of a pie ground consisting of 2 beegahs an cottahs leased by Suttesh Chunder Maharajah of Nuddea, to one Ram M at a rent of 20 rupees 7 annas.

Ram Mohun, with the sanction o Maharajah, sold his tenure to Bunko Be Bunko Behary having allowed his re fall into arrears, a suit was brought a Bunko Behary by the Maharajah for under Act X. of 1859; and in executio decree in that suit on the 31st of July i year 1866, the tenure was sold to one N Koomar, pursuant to the provisions of tion 16 of Act VIII. of 1865, B. C. sale-certificate bears date the 15th of tember 1866. The plaintiff in the pr suit at a subsequent time, the exact da which does not appear, purchased the of Nund Koomar in the tenure.

The defendant has proved that, in e tion of a decree obtained in the Civil against Bunko Behary in the mont January 1865, one Rambux bought materials of the house, and at the same one Bipin Behary bought the tulk site of the house, as containing 4 co Bipin Behary subsequently sold the s the house as 15 cottahs to Rambux, wh the 19th of October 1867, sold the site the house upon it to the present defe Shib Doss. The Additional Judge, Pepper, finds that there is *nothing to that Bunko Behary obtained the land wise than for purpose of cultivation, any time acquired a right or authori erect buildings on it; and in the absen any pottah or any separate and di authority*, he thought that Bunko Be stood "in the position of a ryot who e "his own house on culturable land, and th "by acquires no separate and distinct rig "who, should he fail to pay the rent, "turn out to give place to some other ten "and cannot lay claim to retain any po "land in his possession under pretence

oo or tenement, unless at the time of his e he made a special provision for the e."

e Judge adds: "This was Bunko Be-y's position, and the defendant does not claim to any other rights than those h he acquired from Bunko Behary." ys: "Bunko Behary had no authority b-divide his jumma. * * If the re was sold for any cause, it should e been sold entire, and could not be in parts without the authority of the llord; and that sanction was not ob-ed. When Bunko Behary's house was for debt, only so much was sold as had a right to convey. But he had no t to convey a separate title of tenancy part of the jumma. * * Bunko ary does not appear at any time to e acquired the right to dispose of his ure in parcels, or to sub-divide it into aller jummahs."

e appellants first attempted to argue he tenure in question consisted of land town; that, under Act X. of 1859, the ctor had no jurisdiction to entertain a for the rent of such land; and that, fore, the sale of the tenure under the e of the Collector's Court against Bun-ehary for rent could not affect the rights e appellant. But as the suit was a for the rent of land and nothing more, ink the argument quite untenable.

ey next argued that, by the sale of a n of the tenure to Bipin Behary in ry 1865, the tenure has been divided, that the rights of the purchasers at that could not be affected by any sale of the e in a suit for rent against Bunko ry alone.

think it convenient to consider in the place what is the effect of a sale by a t of a portion of this tenure. The ion between landlord and tenant is that parties to a contract. The contract is re and single. Except so far as he may empowered by provision in the contract y some special law or custom, one party uch a contract cannot withdraw from it introduce a stranger as a party. There many instances in which tenures are sferable, either by express provisions to effect in the contract or by the custom e district, which the Court would treat incorporated as an implied condition in contract for the letting of land. But a zemindar is not bound to recognize the sale of a tenure which is not transferable or to accept the purchaser as a tenant. A zemindar is not bound to allow a sub-division of a tenure. There is no provision in any of the Acts relating to this subject, which compels a zemindar to accept as his tenants the alienees of portions of the tenure. The rule that a zemindar is entitled to his rent as an entire demand upon a liability, which cannot be sub-divided or distributed without his consent, is clearly recognized in Section 27 of Act X. of 1859.

If, therefore, a piece of land constituting portion of a tenure be sold either by the tenant or in execution of the decree of a Civil Court against the tenant in the absence of any consent by the zemindar, the only mode in which effect can be given to the alienation is to treat the purchaser as holding a rent-free tenure subordinate to that of the original tenant. The position of a purchaser, under such circumstances, was considered by Mr. Justice Phear in Sreenath Chuckerbutty *versus* Sreemunt Luskur, 10 Weekly Reporter, p. 466.

By Section 16 of Act VIII. of 1865, B. C., the purchaser of a tenure sold for arrears of rent under that Act acquires it free from all incumbrances which have accrued thereon by any act of the holder of the under-tenure. A rent-free holding within a tenure is clearly an incumbrance upon it. I think it clear that the purchaser of a tenure under Act VIII. of 1865 can, therefore, avoid the rent-free holding of the purchaser of a portion of the tenure.

But then comes the question, suppose he avoids the rent-free under-tenure, what are his rights as regards the owner of a brick-built house erected on land comprised in the holding, and what are the rights of the occupier of such house?

I think that a house cannot be considered as "an incumbrance" on the tenure within the meaning of that word in Section 16 of Act VIII. of 1865, B. C. If the land had been sold for arrears of Government revenue, the owner of a house built on the land might have been entitled as against the auction-purchaser to reside in or enjoy the house paying an equitable ground-rent for the site to such purchaser, and that, whether the house were built by a person holding under a lease granted by the former proprietor (Act I. of 1845, Sections 3, 26, and 27, Act XI. of

1859, Sections 3, 7), or even by the ex-proprietor himself (*see* Ram Koomar Sen *versus* Mohesh Chunder Sen, Sudder decisions of 1860, Volume I., page 637). It is not easy to see why the purchaser of a tenure at a sale for arrears of rent should be treated as having a right greater than that of a purchaser at a sale for arrears of Government revenue.

It was decided by a Full Bench of this Court in Thakoor Chunder Paramanick *versus* Ram Dhun Bhuttacharjee, 6 Weekly Reporter, page 228, after long and careful consideration, that in this country, where a person in possession of land under a title, which he believes to be good, builds a house on that land, he has a right either to remove the materials, restoring the land to the estate in which it was before the improvement was made, or to obtain compensation for the value of the building if it be allowed to remain for the benefit of the owner of the soil.

Therefore, apart from any particular relation between the parties, the ownership and right of possession in the soil does not necessarily carry with it a right to the possession of buildings erected thereon. Let us now see what are the respective rights of landlord and tenant where buildings are erected by a tenant during the tenancy.

I think there is no doubt but that a zemindar might object to the erection of brick-houses on land left for purposes of cultivation, and, if he resorted to a Court of justice, might obtain an order restraining his ryot from doing anything which would substantially alter the character of the tenure. In the North-West Provinces it has been held that a tenant having a right of occupancy planting trees on his holding without his landlord's permission, or even digging a kutcha well, commits such a breach of the contract of tenancy as warrants the landlord in suing to eject him.

But if the landlord, instead of objecting to the erection of a brick-house on the holding, were to remain passive and allow a house to be built, knowing, as he necessarily would in a case such as that now before us, that the security for the rent would be enormously increased by the erection of the building, it appears to me that he could not afterwards be heard to say that the tenant had done any wrong in erecting the house on the tenure.

If in such a case the tenancy should be determined, the position of the parties would appear to be this. The landlord wo the owner of the soil—the tenant house. I think it would be contra the principles of equity and good science to allow the landlord to in the needless destruction of a valuable ing, or to allow him to claim to re without making to the owner full co sation for its value. I may refer o point to the Roman Civil Law, In Book 2, title 1, Section 30, and Book 41, Chapter I., Section 7, § 1 that law, if the person who built was ly in possession of the land, and the of the soil claimed the building, but r to pay the price of the materials an wages of the workmen, the claim o owner might be rejected. I am dis to think that the purchaser of a tenure sale for arrears of rent only takes such as the landlord himself could have exe if he had re-entered and resumed poss of the property; and if that be so— landlord in the present case could not insisted on the demolition of the so neither could the purchaser of t nure. His only right would be eit purchase the house by reimbursi the owner the full amount of its cos to take a fair rent from him for the la which the house stands.

But, in the absence of any distinct ing that the landlord acquiesced in building of the house, the defendant m taken to be merely in the position person who has built a house on la which he was in possession by a title.

According to the case decided by the Bench to which I have already referred purchaser of the tenure held the opti taking over the building, or allowing removal of the materials remaining w owner of the land in those cases in the building is not taken down by builder during the continuance of any he may possess. I think that an opti insist on the destruction of a brick- and the removal of the materials is which should and must be exercised pro ly, or not at all. Nundo Koomar, original purchaser, who bought on the 3 July 1865, never did exercise that He seems to have acquiesced in the co ance of the building on the ground, a have sought to make use of his sup legal right for the purpose of extortin excessive price or rent for the use o

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the house from defendant. This, I he could not do. Nundo Koomar sold plaintiff, who brought the present suit 21st of July 1869. Without ex- a final opinion whether, in the case, Nundo Koomar, immediately uiring the tenure, could have called in Behary or Rambux to remove the ls of the house, and given him actual ion, I think, if it ever existed, such now lost, and that the plaintiff's ht is to get a fair rent for the land. that the judgment of the Court should be reversed, and the suit dis- with costs in all the Courts.

h, J.—I concur.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating f Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, ge.

ns to a building—Title—Compensation.

Case No. 1891 of 1870.

l *Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated 14th June 1870, modifying a decision of Subordinate Judge of that District, d the 13th December 1869.*

opal Mullick and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

d Chunder Chatterjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

J. S. Rockfort and *Baboo Sreenath Banerjee* for Appellant.

Baboo Kalee Prosunno Dutt for Respondents.

the Cross-appeal No. 2110 of 1870.

rson is not entitled to remove additions which have made to a building, but is at most entitled compensation for present value, or for the ex- incurred in making the additions.

rman, C. J.—The Judge's judgment ds on a mistake. He says: "It been found, and it has not been shown me that the finding is incorrect, that "the buildings on the land were erected by "Nobin Chunder; and it appears, therefore, "that the defendant, who represents Nobin "Chunder, is entitled to remove the build- "ings on the determination of the te- "nancy."

Now, on referring to the bill of sale, and the deed between Kalee Kishen and the plaintiffs, executed subsequently, it appears that, at the time of the plaintiffs' purchase, there was a lower-roomed godown on the land. The Subordinate Judge finds that, when Nobin entered into possession of the land, Nobin entered into possession of the land and godown which was there at the time when he entered into possession. It appears that Nobin gave no evidence that he had made even the additions to the premises himself. The Subordinate Judge comes to the conclusion—which may or may not be correct on the evidence—that the additions were made by Nobin Chunder.

Be that as it may, the making of additions to an existing building will not entitle the person to remove the building; he will at most only be entitled to compensation for present value of, or the expenses incurred by him in making, such additions; or possibly in some cases he may remove the additions, if he can do so without in any way injuring the original building.

The case must go back to the Judge for trial. Both appeals will be disposed of together, and the unsuccessful party will pay the costs of both appeals.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Procedure—Defendant's case—Purchaser in execution—Judgment-debtor.

Case No. 2058 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Moorshedabad, dated the 24th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Gowas, dated the 14th June 1870.

Radha Binode Dutt (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Kootabode Mundul (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Bungshee Dhur Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Doorga Doss Dutt for Respondent.

A Judge ought not to make for a defendant a case which the latter does not make for himself.

Where a purchaser in execution claims more than the share of the person whose rights and interests he has purchased, his suit should be decreed to the extent to which those rights and interests are found to exist, and not be dismissed altogether.

Norman, C. J.—It appears to us that this case must go back to the Judge. The plaintiff claims as purchaser in execution of the rights and interests of one Akir Shaikh. The defendant is the brother of Akir Shaikh. The plaintiff's case is that Akir Shaikh during his lifetime was in exclusive possession of the lands in suit. The defendant's case is that *he*, and not Akir Shaikh, was in exclusive possession of the land.

The first Court found in favor of the plaintiff. The Judge, reversing the decision of the first Court, observes that "the wit-"nesses say that he (Akir Shaikh) was in "possession of the disputed land; but they "do not depose to any fact by which the "possession can be declared to have been "an *exclusive* possession as against defend-"ant, who has presumably an equal right to "the land with his brother Akir Shaikh." In other words, the Judge finds that the defendant and Akir Shaikh in his lifetime were in possession jointly as the heirs of their father.

Now, that is not the case of either party. The defendant does not pretend that he was in *joint* possession with Akir Shaikh; and the witnesses prove that Akir Shaikh was in possession.

The Judge ought not to have made for the defendant a case which he never made for himself.

We would suggest to the Judge that, in trying this case, it is important to remember that the plaintiff and defendant are not on equal terms. A purchaser, in execution of a decree of the rights and interests of the debtor, has not the same means of providing himself with evidence as to the title of that debtor as a member of the family of the debtor would have.

The judgment of the Judge is also erroneous on another point which is this. If he is right in supposing that Akir Shaikh and the defendant were in joint possession of the property, he ought to have given the p iff, as purchaser of the rights and in of Akir Shaikh, a decree for a moiety property. It is not because the p claimed more than the share of the whose rights and interests he pur that his case must be dismissed altoge

The case is remanded to the Jud re-trial. Costs will follow the result.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Offi Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. *Judge.*

Bond—Registration—Section 17, Act X 1866.

Case No. 2131 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Judge of Moorshedabad, date 23rd September 1870, affirming a sion of the Moonsiff of Hurhur dated the 7th April 1870.

J. Perrin (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

J. W. Ledlie and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for App

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Bhowanee C Dutt* for Respondents.

Where a bond pledges land for sums to be ha advanced not exceeding 100 rupees, and the sa tually advanced to exceed that amount, the bo comes an instrument of which the registration is sary under Section 17, Act XX. of 1866.

Norman, C. J.—In this case, one Churn Shaw pledged certain property bond to secure advances to be mad Messrs. Watson and Co. to him on ac of silk which he was to supply to them.

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tion of a decree against Ram Churn the property pledged in that bond old and was purchased by the special ant Monsieur Perrin.

e bond given by Ram Churn Shaw con- no specification of the amount for it is to be a security. It is stamped stamp of 8 annas, which, according to amp Law, Act X. of 1862—which was ce when the bond was given—is a for a sum above 50 rupees and under rupees. Now, by the 17th Clause of dule A, it is provided that a bond or obligation, when the amount of the y to be secured is not specified, shall an optional stamp; and rules as to nal stamps are laid down in Section 27 Act, which provides that—"No larger shall be recoverable in any Court of ice by reason of any deed, instrument, writitng, for which an optional stamp dicated to be proper by the Schedule nnexed to this Act, than the largest for which, if specially stated in a d, instrument, or writing of the same omination, the stamp actually used er the option so given would be of cient value."

e bond, therefore, is a bond which s the land for sums to be hereafter ced not exceeding 100 rupees. But ms actually advanced exceeded Rs. 100. bond, therefore, was an instrument purported to create, and operated to , an interest of the value of Rs. 100 moveable property; it was, therefore, strument of which the registration was ary under the provisions of Section 17, XX. of 1866, the Indian Registration

e present suit is a suit for the purpose orcing the lien created by that bond. under the 49th Section of the Indian ration Act, the Court was precluded acting on it, as it was not registered.

e result is that the Lower Courts were in admitting the bond in evidence as ng a lien on land, and as against M. n, the subsequent incumbrancer.

e decision of both Courts is reversed costs, so far as regards the interests of cial appellant. The special appellant his costs of this appeal, and in both ower Courts.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Act VIII. (B. C.), 1865—Sale without arrears—Fraud.

Case No. 2464 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, dated the 23rd August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Gurbettah, dated the 22nd July 1869.

Damoodur Roy (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Nimanund Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Appellant.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Shome for Respondent.

Where a tenure is sold under Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865, even though no arrears were due when the decree was obtained, before the purchase can be set aside, the decree and sale must be shown to have been fraudulent, and the purchaser to have been a party to, or to have had no tice of, the fraud.

Kemp, J.—THE special appellant in this case is one of the defendants in the Court below, who is the purchaser of a tenure under the provisions of Act VIII. of 1865. He contends that he is an innocent purchaser, that the Courts below have not found that there was any fraud on his part, and therefore that, under the ruling laid down in Volume X., Weekly Reporter, page 154, as the decree for rent existed at the time the sale was made, and the sale was a *bonâ-fide* one, and he was a *bonâ-fide* purchaser for value, and as the tenure passed under that sale, and not the rights and interests of the defaulter, that he is entitled to receive that tenure free of incumbrances. It appears that the plaintiff purchased the rights and interests of one Gopal Paul in 23 beegahs 13 cottahs of land. It is said that these 23 beegahs 13 cottahs comprise the whole tenure; that the plaintiff purchased in execution of a Civil Court decree against Gopal Paul on two dates, namely, on the 20th December 1865 and on the 8th June 1866.

The plaintiff then states that he got possession, and let out the lands to Gopal Paul; that he, the plaintiff, paid rent to the putneedars, Watson & Co.; that the rent of 1275 was paid by him, the plaintiff; and that, notwithstanding such payments, Watson and Co. sued Gopal Paul for rent, obtained an *ex-parte* decree, and sold the tenure, upon which the defendant became the purchaser. The plaintiff sues to obtain possession of this tenure, and to set aside the sale to the defendant.

The first Court dismissed the plaintiff's suit, and appears to have found that the dakhilas put in by the plaintiff were spurious. The second Court found that the plaintiff was the purchaser of the rights and interests of Gopal Paul; and although he had not registered his name in the putneedar's serishta, that he had paid rent to the putneedar, and that he had obtained dakhilas acknowledging him, the plaintiff, to be the auction-purchaser of the tenure. The Subordinate Judge further found that the proceedings of the zemindar in suing for the rent of 1275 as against the old tenant, Gopal Paul, were fraudulent, inasmuch as these arrears did not exist, and had already been recovered from the plaintiff, the auction-purchaser. He, therefore, reversed the decision of the first Court as already stated.

The main ground of special appeal is comprised in the third ground taken, namely, that even if the decree obtained by the putneedar was improperly obtained, inasmuch as no arrears were due, still the special appellant was not answerable for this, there being no legal evidence of fraud as against him.

We think that there can be no doubt that the decision of the Chief Justice to be found in Volume X., Weekly Reporter, page 154, does apply to the case. There was an existing decree for rent at the time of the sale, and that sale was regularly conducted by the Collector under that decree.

Before, therefore, the defendant's purchase of the tenure under Act VIII. of 1865, which conveyed to him the tenure free of incumbrances, can be set aside, it must be shown that the decree and sale were fraudulent, and that the purchaser-defendant was a party to that fraud, or had notice of that fraud.

We, therefore, remand the case to the Lower Court for a finding on this point. Costs to follow the result.

The 13th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G
Judges.

Enhancement of rent—Excessive dem

Case No. 2500 of 1870 under Act X. of

Special Appeal from a decision passed Officiating Judge of Midnapore, da 5th August 1870, reversing a decis the Deputy Collector of that Distric ed the 30th November 1869.

Shumsool Osman and others (Plaint *Appellants,*

versus

Bunsheedhur Dutt (Defendant), *Respo*

Baboo Kumla Kant Sein for Appella

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Respon

In a suit for enhancement of rent, where, al surement of the land and every opportunity of taining the extent of the excess land on wh could be claimed, plaintiff demanded rent on A larger excess, the Lower Court was held to ha rightly in refusing its assistance to plaintiff recovery of rent on a small excess found al defendant's possession.

Glover, J.—THIS was a suit for en ment of rent after notice. The pl alleged that the defendant was in poss of 22 beegahs 5 cottahs of land, the p rent of which, according to the pres rates in the neighbourhood, was 115 r 1 anna 6 gundahs; that he only pai rupees 3 annas 5 gundahs, as on a ho of 9 beegahs 3 cottahs 10 gundahs. admitted that he had received payme 31 rupees 15½ annas from the defen and sued for the balance. The defen

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ged that he held four distinct and sepa- holdings, one of which in respect where- this suit was brought comprised 16 gahs 11 cottahs odd on a rent of 17 es 8 annas, and was a mourosee holding. not necessary to go into the question e other holdings, as the case turns upon first one alone.

he first Court gave the plaintiff a decree, g the grounds of enhancement proved, held that the mourosee pottah of the of Assin 1211 set up by the defendant a forgery.

he Judge, on the first occasion, remanded case, in order to have it distinctly set what were the grounds of enhance- t on which the Lower Court considered the plaintiff was entitled to increase defendant's rent. On the case coming to him after remand, the Judge dis- ed the plaintiff's case altogether, holding the notice was informal and insufficient, that for the small excess which might now in the defendant's possession over above the 16 beegahs odd cottahs held him as mourosee, no enhancement could had in this suit, inasmuch as that was not plaintiff's case, and the Judge apparent- id not think it right to allow him to e a new case in the appeal-stage. He, efore, dismissed the suit of the plaint- together.

he first ground taken in special appeal at the notice was not defective. On point, however, there appears to be no t. The notice set forth that "you, defendants, pay less than other ryots the neighbourhood; and therefore you to pay for the future at such and such es." This clearly is not such a notice mplated by Section 17, Act X. of 1859. intention of the law was that a ryot, is suddenly called upon to pay an ess over his former rent, should know ctly the cause for which the landlord ands the excess. The Section says that, re it is shown that the rate of rent paid a ryot is less than that paid by ryots *ng similar rights for the same descrip- of land in the vicinity*, the rent can be nced up to the rates paid by those ryots. his case there is no such wording to be nd in the notice. We think, therefore, the Judge was quite right in saying this notice was insufficient and in- d; and on this notice alone the plaint- suit for enhancement could have been missed.

The second objection, as it is found in the written petition of special appeal, is that the Judge is wrong in not giving the plaintiff credit for the excess lands which the defendant admits to have been in his possession, simply because in his plaint he had demanded a larger quantity of land than that found in the defendant's possession. This, we may observe, is not the objection taken orally by his pleader. That objection was that, as the defendant admitted holding 16 beegahs odd cottahs at a rent of 28 rupees 3 annas 5 gundahs, and as he admitted having only paid rent on a certain proportion of that holding, the Judge was wrong in not giving the plaintiff a decree for the balance.

With regard to this, we find that the defendant did not admit any such thing. He did not admit that he paid rent for 9 beegahs 3½ cottahs; his allegation was that he paid Rupees 17-8 as the rent of the mourosee holding of 16 beegahs 11 cottahs. This objection, therefore, fails in its inception.

As to the other objection, we cannot say that the Judge was wrong in dismissing the plaintiff's suit altogether. The plaintiff had every opportunity of finding exactly what it was that he asked the defendant to give him an increase of rent upon. He had measured the land, and he was bound to state distinctly what was the extent of the excess on which rent was demanded. If, then, having all these opportunities of making an exact statement, he comes into Court with one which is nine-tenths of it false, we do not think that the Judge was wrong in refusing the Court's assistance for recovery of rent on the small excess which might, after all, be found in the defendant's hands. He can get that in a suit properly framed.

The last objection is that, as this is a suit for arrears of rent, the Judge is wrong in not giving the plaintiff a decree for the sum of Rupees 15-13-5, which arrears are admitted by the defendant. A sufficient answer to this is, that this is not a suit to recover arrears of rent, but for enhancement; and supposing even, which is not at all clear, the sum to be due as arrears by the defendant upon the land which he does hold, it is the plaintiff's business to recover that in a regular way.

There are no grounds, therefore, on which this special appeal can be maintained, and it must be dismissed with costs.

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The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Execution-sale—Satisfaction of decree—Section 251, Act VIII., 1859.

Reference to the High Court by the Judge of the Small Cause Court at Jessore, dated the 27th February 1871.

Indro Narain Deb, *Decree-holder*,

versus

Gobind Chunder Dhur, *Judgment-debtor*.

All sales by Small Cause Court Judges should be conducted strictly in accordance with Section 251, Act VIII. of 1859; though where property of small value is being sold in execution of a decree for a considerable amount, and is purchased by the decree-holder, a Small Cause Court might on his application, and as an exceptional case, order that his receipts should be accepted as cash, but provision must in that case be made for realizing all fees of Court.

Case.—In this case, the decree-holder caused the moveable property of his judgment-debtor to be put up for sale, and bid for the same without having first obtained the leave of the Court for that purpose; and this he would be entitled to do under the ruling in Bundhoo Roy and others *versus* Hunooman Singh, quoted in Veerapa Chitty and others, petitioners, Weekly Reporter, Civil Rulings, Volume XIV, page 406; and his pleader has applied that his client be permitted to file his receipt for the property so purchased in lieu of paying the price of the same into Court, as directed by Section 251 of Act VIII. of 1859, the practice in this Court during the time of my predecessors having been to allow parties to file such receipts.

I find, on referring to Marshman's Civil Guide, page 742, that, under Circular Order Calcutta and North-West Courts, dated 18th January 1839, Civil Courts were competent to allow a decree-holder to file his receipt for the property which he purchases in lie payment of the purchase-money; but was only allowed in cases of sale of ho orchards, gardens, or small portions of free land, and that the Circular had no cation as regards sales of moveable prop a specific provision for which is to be in construction 787, 3rd May 1833, at page 731 of the same work, and amongst other things, says that "pe property sold in execution of a decree be paid for before delivery." And it ap to me more than doubtful whether the C lar Order of 1837 has not been super by the provisions of Act VIII. of 1859 i far as relates to sales of immoveable perty.

It is stated in the application made by decree-holder's pleader that the practic allowing a decree-holder to file a rece cases of sales of moveable property is tioned by all the Courts in the Mofussil I myself believe that such is the pra but as it appears to me to be an erro one, and opposed to the provisions of Se 251 of Act VIII. of 1859. I have conse on the pleader's application, to subm following points for the decision of the Court, *viz.*:—

Whether, under the existing law, competent to Small Cause Courts in Mofussil to allow a decree-holder, purch properties sold at public auction in sa tion of his decree, to file his receipt in of paying the whole amount of purc money in Court.

The judgment of the High Court w delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—We think that Judg Small Cause Courts would do well to that all sales should be conducted str accordance with the provisions of tion 251.

If in any particular case there was a cree for a considerable amount, and prop of small value was being sold, we are prepared to say that the Small Cause C (on the application of the decree-holde whom the money, when paid into Co would belong) might not order that the ceipt of the decree-holder should be acce as cash. But the case would be an ex tional one, and he would have to see provision should be made for realizing fees of Court.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating ief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *dge.*

ration—Sections 52 to 54, Act XX. of 1866—Bonds.

ence to the High Court by the Judge the Small Cause Court at Jessore, ed the 6th February 1871.

Jadub Mundul

versus

Bishoo Sirdar and another.

ions 52 to 54, Act XX. of 1866, contemplate money- only. A bond for the delivery of paddy without ation of its money-value, or of the amount to be case of non-delivery, cannot be summarily en- under Section 53 of that law.

se.—THIS is an application under Sec- 53 of Act XX. of 1866 to enforce the ment recorded by the registering officer Section 53 of the said Act on the bond bligation filed with it, and dated 13th 1276.

he bond is one for paddy, but states ngst other things "আমরা সাহেবের স্থানে বাড়ি করিয়া ২৪, টাকা মূল্যের ১২ বার ধান্য কর্জ্জ করিয়া লইলাম ইহার দেড়া বাড়ি আড়ি একুনে ১৮ আড়ি ধান্য সন মজকুরের ভাদ্র এক তারিখে দিয়া এই খত খালাষ করিয়া খতের লিখিত ধান্য যদি এক তারিখে না দেই যখন যে ধান্য দিব এই খতের পৃষ্ঠে উশুল লইয়া লইব খতের পৃষ্ঠে উশুল ভিন্ন অন্য উশু- দাবি দাওয়া করিব না" and the petitioner asks that a summary decree be granted im for Rupees 63-0-0, the value of 18 es of paddy at the rate of Rupees 3 8 per e.

he application was filed on the 12th uary last, corresponding with 29th Pous 7, B S., and the question arises whether petitioner is entitled to a summary de- under the Section cited.

appears to me that there are only two es of cases in which the obligee is enti- to a summary decree, *viz.*, one where whole amount becomes due, and the other ere any instalment—when the amount is payable by instalments—becomes due; but there is no provision for a case like the present; and as it cannot be known without evidence besides the bond and the application whether or not any payment has been made in Bhadro, or what was the value of 6 arrees of paddy in that and the following month of Pous, I do not think the Act applies, and the petition must therefore be referred to a regular suit under the rulings noted in the margin.*

* Sreeram Roy Chowdhry *versus* Kuleemooddeen Mollah, 9 Weekly Reporter, C. R., 477; Ram Narain Biswas *versus* Sreenath Poddar, *ib.* 498; Gour Mohun Doss *versus* Ramroop Mojoomdar, 10 Weekly Reporter, C. R., 84; In the matter of Luchmeeput Singh Doogar and Dhunsook Doss Bayanee and another, 11 Weekly Reporter, App. from 6 J, 24.

The judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—It is quite plain that this bond is not one which can be enforced summarily under the provisions of Section 53 of Act XX. of 1866.

The Sections from 52 to 54 clearly contemplate bonds for the payment of money, and none others. The bond before the Small Cause Court Judge is a bond which provides for the delivery to the plaintiff of 18 arrees of paddy, without any specification as to the money-value of such paddy or the amount to be paid if the paddy is not delivered.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Small Cause Courts—Jurisdiction—Relative of a minor—Right of action—Section 3, Act XL., 1858.

Reference to the High Court by the Judge of the Small Cause Court at Jessore, dated the 6th February 1871.

Khanto Bewah, *Plaintiff*,

versus

Nund Ram Nath, *Defendant.*

A Court of Small Causes constituted under Act XI. of 1865 is competent, under Section 3, Act XL of 1858, to allow any relative of a minor to institute or defend a

suit in his behalf without a certificate of administration where it has jurisdiction in relation to the subject-matter of the suit.

Case.—THE plaint in this case was presented unaccompanied with a certificate under Act XL. of 1858; and as the plaintiff had not been specially admitted by this Court to sue as guardian of the infant, I returned the plaint to the pleader, in order that he may comply with the provisions of Section 3 of the said Act. He has done this, and again presents the plaint, and by his application asks leave of this Court to allow the mother to sue as guardian of her minor daughter.

It is said in Macpherson's Civil Procedure, Edition of 1860, page 8: "In order "that justice may be done, it is necessary "that suits be conducted with discretion "and intelligence; and if the suitor does not "possess these qualities, he must be aided "by some person who is capable of forming "a judgment as to the necessity of applying "to the tribunals for protection or redress, "and who may be responsible to them that "the suit has not been improperly insti-"tuted;" and at pages 11 and 12: "In the "case of a minor whose estate is not under "the Court of Wards, the executor of the "person under whose Will the minor is en-"titled to the property, or the legal guar-"dian of the minor, must stand in his place, "and be subject to all the rules of suit and "defence to which the minor himself would "be subject were he not a minor. The "question, who is the legal guardian, must "be determined, according to the rules of "the community, to which the minor be-"longs.

"If the minor be not a European British "subject, no person is entitled in the Pre-"sidency of Bengal to institute or defend "any suit connected with the estate of "which he claims the charge in trust for a "minor, until he shall have obtained from "the Civil Court a certificate of adminis-"tration under Act XL. of 1858. But when "the property is of small value, or for any "other sufficient reason, any Court having "jurisdiction may allow any relative of a "minor to institute or defend a suit on his "behalf, although a certificate of adminis-"tration has not been granted to such rela-"tive.

"The legal guardian, however, is not the "only person who is entitled to sue on be-"half of a minor, for it may be doubtful "who is the legal guardian, or the gua "himself may be the person who with "the right or does the injury, or be "neglect to give needful protection "minor. And therefore it has been "down that any friend of a minor, wh "his regular guardian or not, may su "his behalf to establish his right. "liberty, however, does not apply to "in which a person who is not legal gua "claims to receive money on behalf "minor."

The practice in England is that the *chein Amy*, or guardian *ad litem*, mu admitted before the plaintiff can proce the action, and this practice, I believe, vails in the High Court in its original diction; but, of course, a special admi of *Prochein Amy* or guardian to prose or defend for an infant is not to be do an authority to prosecute or defend in an the particular action or actions specifie that the question arises whether the pla in the present instance can sue without first obtained from this Court; and, if whether it is competent to this Court u any law for the time being in force, or by power inherent in itself, to allow any r of a minor to institute or defend a suit o behalf, although a certificate of administ has not been granted to such relative.

I am of opinion that, in the absence certificate, the plaintiff cannot sue, and this Court has not by any law the pow those cases where the property is of value, or for any other sufficient reaso allow any relative of a minor to institu defend a suit on his behalf, as the provi of Section 3 of Act XL. of 1858 hav been extended to Mofussil Small C Courts, nor were those Courts in exi when that Act was passed, and o there appears to be no inherent po such Courts to allow a *Prochein A* guardian to sue without a certificate o ministration.

The result is that I shall reject the p as also the application for leave to s guardian of the minor, contingent on opinion of the High Court.

The judgment of the High Court was d vered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—We are of opinion th Court of Small Causes instituted under XI. of 1865 is competent, under Section Act XL. of 1858, to allow any relative

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to institute or defend a suit in his (though a certificate of administra- as not been granted to such relative) case in which such Court, has juris- in relation to the subject-matter of

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The 14th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating of Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *ge*.

te decree—Objection by one defendant—Jurisdiction.

nce to the High Court by the Judge the Small Cause Court at Burrisal, d the 6th February 1871.

Dookhee Khan, *Plaintiff*,

versus

suree Ranee and others, *Defendants*.

y be competent to the Judge of a Small Cause on hearing one of the defendants, to set aside an e decree as to all, if justice requires it, *e. g.*, if ction is one which is common to the case of all; is not bound, because the decree is set aside as defendant, to interfere with the decision against who do not object.

e.—I BEG respectfully to state that in se there are three defendants, against conjointly plaintiff obtained an *ex-parte* for money. Afterwards one of the nts applied to set aside the *ex-parte* and the case was accordingly re-opened. re-trial it was found that the defendant ot liable, and the Court consequently rated him. It is now urged on the part plaintiff that, as only one of the defend- applied to set aside the *ex-parte* e, against which the two remaining dants have raised no objection, and are silent, the *ex-parte* order before d against them is no way affected by fendant present being released from the y, and the former order should not aside as regards them. In support argument, plaintiff's pleader cites a ent laid down in an Act X. case, *viz.*, ath Surma Chuckerbutty, defendant, lant, *versus* Anund Moyee Debia Chow-dhrain, plaintiff, respondent, published in Volume VII. of 1867, page 237, Weekly Reporter, in which it is ruled "that the "revival of a suit under Section 58, Act "X. of 1859, does not re-open the case as "regards all the defendants, but only as re- "gards the party who has applied to have "his particular case revived and heard on "the merits;" and he urges that the case under reference, which is similar in nature, ought to be disposed of in the like manner. It is, however, found also laid down in Rule VIII. of the Rules of Practice for Mofussil Courts of Small Causes, as issued by the late Sudder Court in June 1861, that "when a "new trial is granted in accordance with "Section 12, Act XLII. of 1860 (now Sec- "tion 21, Act XI. of 1865), all former pro- "ceedings become null and void, and the "plaintiff shall be at liberty to file his plaint "*de novo*, &c." The *form* how to record the order for a new trial accompanying those rules also contains the following words, *viz.*: "It is ordered that the judgment in this "case and all subsequent proceedings there- "on be set aside, and a new trial had be- "tween the parties," &c.

I am of opinion that the above rule and the form refer to the consequences of granting new trial of a contested case in which plaintiff and defendants were present, and not of re-opening a case for setting aside an *ex-parte* order; but as I am doubtful on the point, I have, pending the order of the Hon'ble Court, in dismissing plaintiff's claim against the defendant present, upheld the former order of decree against the defendants who are absent, and do not move the Court to set aside its *ex-parte* order. No execution shall be issued until the receipt of the order of the Hon'ble Court.

The judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—We think it may be competent to the Judge of the Small Cause Court, on hearing the objections by one of several defendants, to set aside the decree as to all if justice seems to require it; as for instance, if the objection is one which is common to the case of all; but that he is by no means bound, because the decree is set aside as to one of several defendants, to interfere with the decision already pronounced against others who do not object, and in fact may have no ground for objecting to the decree.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges*.

Purchase of decree by a judgment-debtor—Execution—Sale—Caveat emptor—Notice.

Case No. 121 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 25th April 1870.

Digamburee Debia (Plaintiff) *Appellant*,

versus

Eshan Chunder Sein and others (Defendants), *Respondents*.

Mr. Cowie and *Baboos Sreenath Doss* and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

Mr. J. W. B. Money and *Baboos Gopal Lall Mitter*, *Kishen Succa Mookerjee*, and *Nil Madhub Sein* for Respondents.

As between judgment-debtors and the decree-holder, the purchase of a decree by one of the debtors operates as a satisfaction of the decree, which cannot, after such satisfaction, legally be executed.

Should a sale take place in execution of such a decree so satisfied, the sale is invalid; and if the proceedings leading up to the sale included specific objections thereto on the ground of such satisfaction, the purchaser cannot pretend to rely on any legal right as a purchaser under proceedings valid upon the face of them, and of the invalidity of which he had no means of informing himself.

If a purchase is made of property in litigation while such litigation is actually going on, the purchaser is affected in the same manner as if he had notice of the dispute, though, in point of fact, he had no express notice or actual knowledge of the circumstances.

Norman, C. J.—A suit for enhancement of rent having been brought by Kalee Narain Mookerjee, Bipro Churn Chuckerbutty, and others, against the ancestors of Kalee Pershad Shadhoo, was dismissed with costs in January 1830. Kalee Pershad sold the decree to Ram Dyal Banerjee and others. In 1858, after the death of Bipro Churn Chuckerbutty, Kisto Chunder Chuckerbutty, the son and representative of Bipro-Churn Chuckerbutty, purchased the decree in the name of Sharoda Pershad Roy. On the 30th of June 1864, Sharoda Pershad Roy, having applied for execution of the decree, obtained an order for the attachment of a putnee talook, called Nakra Kenda, belonging to the plaintiff, Digamburee Debia, the widow and heiress of Kalee Narain Chuckerbutty. In the course of these proceedings, the plaintiff, on the 11th of September 1865, presented her petition to the Judge, and therein alleged that she had recently discovered that the decree had been satisfied by having been purchased by one of the judgment-debtors, Kristo Chunder, in the name of Sharoda Pershad; that Sharoda Pershad held that decree benamee for the heir of Kristo Chunder: and therefore that the decree ought not to, and could not, be executed against her.

Mr. Craster, the Judge, overruled the objections of the plaintiff, and ordered that the sale should proceed.

On the 27th of October, the plaintiff presented a petition to the Judge, praying for a postponement of the sale, referred to the former petition, and reiterated the statement that one of her co-debtors had bought the decree in the name of Sharoda Pershad: and that thereby the decree had become satisfied, and saying that she was then ready with her witnesses to prove her allegation.

The Judge passed an order on the petition refusing to allow any postponement. As it was late, and there were no bidders, the sale did not take place on the 27th of October. On the 30th, the plaintiff put in a fresh petition praying for postponement. The sale took place on the same day, and at that sale the defendant, Eshan Chunder Sein, became the purchaser of the plaintiff's putnee talook Nakra Kenda.

The plaintiff having appealed to this Court against the order allowing the sale, on the 9th of May 1866, Mr. Justice Bayley and Mr. Justice Pundit, considering that the Judge had not given sufficient opportunity to the petitioner to prove her allegation that the purchase by Sharoda Pershad was a mere benamee transaction by and for the benefit of one of the petitioner's co-debtor under the decree, remanded the case to the Judge.

On the remand, the Judge, Mr. Toogood, found that the purchase by Sharoda Pershad Roy was made benamee for Kristo Chunder,

allowed the objection, and ordered that the sale be set aside.

Mr. Justice Bayley and Mr. Justice Shumbhoo Nauth Pundit granted a review of their order of the 9th of May 1866 on the application of the purchaser at the sale. The case ultimately went before a Full Bench, the decision of which is reported in 9 Weekly Reporter, page 230.

Sir Barnes Peacock, in whose reasoning the other Judges concur, points out that, under Section 208 of Act VIII. of 1859, where a decree is transferred by assignment, application for execution may be made by the person to whom it has been transferred; and if the Court shall think it "just and proper" to grant such application, the decree may be executed in the same manner as if the application had been made by the original decree-holder. He says: "The question then arises "whether it is just and proper to allow one "of several debtors, who has purchased a "decree against himself and the others, to "issue execution against his co-debtors, and "recover from them the entire amount. The "case not being provided for by any specific "rule, it becomes necessary for the Court, "under Regulation III. of 1793, to decide "the case according to the principles of "justice, equity, and good conscience. The "Court must, therefore, decide whether it is "according to the principles of justice, "equity, and good conscience to allow one "of several debtors under a decree to pur-"chase the decree and levy the whole amount "against his co-debtors." He comes to the conclusion that, "if one debtor satisfies the "judgment-debt, and takes an assignment of "it, he cannot enforce it by execution or in "any way against his co-debtors. His only "remedy is to sue them for contribution, "and to compel them to pay him their "share of the amount for which the decree "was purchased, having regard to the "proportion in which they were bound, *in-"ter se*, to satisfy the original decree;" and "that the debtor in this case, having "taken an assignment of the judgment, was "not entitled to enforce it by execution "against his co-debtors."

The Court thought that whether the sale is to be reversed, so as to deprive the purchaser under execution of the benefit of that which he has derived by this purchase, was a matter which could only be decided in a regular suit.

The suit now before us was brought to try that question. The Subordinate Judge dismissed the suit.

He says, it is true, that, as the purchase of the decree by one of the judgment-debtors was tantamount to its satisfaction, no execution thereof could be taken out again; but it is not alleged by the plaintiff either that the auction-purchaser knew that the judgment-debtor had purchased benamee in the name of Sharoda Pershad, or that they were colluding with the said judgment-debtor. He finds that, as a matter of fact, they were not aware of the circumstances as to the satisfaction of the decree. He refers to the case of Jan Ali *versus* Jan Ali Chowdhry,* 1 Bengal Law Reports, Appendix, Civil, page 56, and holds that, as the defendant, Eshan Chunder, acquired the property at the sale as purchaser in good faith and without fraud, he ought not to be deprived of the property so acquired; and accordingly he dismissed the suit.

From that decision the plaintiff appealed.

I think that, since the Full Bench decision, it must be taken as settled that, as between the debtor and the decree-holder, the purchase of a decree by one of several debtors operates as a satisfaction of the decree; and therefore that, after such satisfaction, the decree cannot legally be executed.

It may be that, if, in a case like the present, a debtor, having satisfied the decree, failed to cause satisfaction to be entered up, or if in the present case the debtor had neglected reasonable precautions, and had omitted to take proper means of giving to purchasers at the sale notice of the satisfaction of the decree, a person purchasing property in execution of a decree, appearing on the face of it to be good without notice of any infirmity in the right of the person causing the decree to be executed, would not be affected by any rights or equities of the judgment-debtors against a decree-holder causing the decree to be executed of which he had no notice.

In the present case, however, the purchaser might have known that the decree was not being executed by the original decree-holder. Any inquiry as to the title and position of the person who was executing the decree would have led at once to the discovery that the now plaintiff was contending that the decree was one which had been satisfied.

* 10 W. R., p. 154.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges*.

Purchase of decree by a judgment-debtor—Execution—Sale—Caveat emptor—Notice.

Case No. 121 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 25th April 1870.

Digamburee Debia (Plaintiff) *Appellant*,

versus

Eshan Chunder Sein and others (Defendants), *Respondents*.

Mr. Cowie and *Baboos Sreenath Doss* and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

Mr. J. W. B. Money and *Baboos Gopal Lall Mitter*, *Kishen Succa Mookerjee*, and *Nil Madhub Sein* for Respondents.

As between judgment-debtors and the decree-holder, the purchase of a decree by one of the debtors operates as a satisfaction of the decree, which cannot, after such satisfaction, legally be executed.

Should a sale take place in execution of such a decree so satisfied, the sale is invalid; and if the proceedings leading up to the sale included specific objections thereto on the ground of such satisfaction, the purchaser cannot pretend to rely on any legal right as a purchaser under proceedings valid upon the face of them, and of the invalidity of which he had no means of informing himself.

If a purchase is made of property in litigation while such litigation is actually going on, the purchaser is affected in the same manner as if he had notice of the dispute, though, in point of fact, he had no express notice or actual knowledge of the circumstances.

Norman, C. J.—A suit for enhancement of rent having been brought by Kalee Narain Mookerjee, Bipro Churn Chuckerbutty, and others, against the ancestors of Kalee Pershad Shadhoo, was dismissed with costs in January 1830. Kalee Pershad sold the decree to Ram Dyal Banerjee and others. In 1858, after the death of Bipro Churn Chuckerbutty, Kisto Chunder Chuckerbutty, the son and representative of Bipro-Churn Chuckerbutty, purchased the d in the name of Sharoda Pershad Roy. the 30th of June 1864, Sharoda Pe Roy, having applied for execution decree, obtained an order for the att of a putnee talook, called Nakra Ken longing to the plaintiff, Digamburee the widow and heiress of Kalee Chuckerbutty. In the course of the ceedings, the plaintiff, on the 11th tember 1865, presented her petition Judge, and therein alleged that she h cently discovered that the decree ha satisfied by having been purchased of the judgment-debtors, Kristo Ch in the name of Sharoda Pershad; that S Pershad held that decree benamee f heir of Kristo Chunder: and therefo the decree ought not to, and could executed against her.

Mr. Craster, the Judge, overrule objections of the plaintiff, and order the sale should proceed.

On the 27th of October, the p presented a petition to the Judge, p for a postponement of the sale, refer the former petition, and reiterated the ment that one of her co-debtors had the decree in the name of Sharoda Pe and that thereby the decree had b satisfied, and saying that she was then with her witnesses to prove her allegati

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The suit now before us was brought to try that question. The Subordinate Judge dismissed the suit.

He says, it is true, that, as the purchase of the decree by one of the judgment-debtors was tantamount to its satisfaction, no execution thereof could be taken out again; but it is not alleged by the plaintiff either that the auction-purchaser knew that the judgment-debtor had purchased benamee in the name of Sharoda Pershad, or that they were colluding with the said judgment-debtor. He finds that, as a matter of fact, they were not aware of the circumstances as to the satisfaction of the decree. He refers to the case of Jan Ali *versus* Jan Ali Chowdhry,* 1 Bengal Law Reports, Appendix, Civil, page 56, and holds that, as the defendant, Eshan Chunder, acquired the property at the sale as purchaser in good faith and without fraud, he ought not to be deprived of the property so acquired; and accordingly he dismissed the suit.

From that decision the plaintiff appealed.

I think that, since the Full Bench decision, it must be taken as settled that, as between the debtor and the decree-holder, the purchase of a decree by one of several debtors operates as a satisfaction of the decree; and therefore that, after such satisfaction, the decree cannot legally be executed.

It may be that, if, in a case like the present, a debtor, having satisfied the decree, failed to cause satisfaction to be entered up, or if in the present case the debtor had neglected reasonable precautions, and had omitted to take proper means of giving to purchasers at the sale notice of the satisfaction of the decree, a person purchasing property in execution of a decree, appearing on the face of it to be good without notice of any infirmity in the right of the person causing the decree to be executed, would not be affected by any rights or equities of the judgment-debtors against a decree-holder causing the decree to be executed of which he had no notice.

In the present case, however, the purchaser might have known that the decree was not being executed by the original decree-holder. Any inquiry as to the title and position of the person who was executing the decree would have led at once to the discovery that the now plaintiff was contending that the decree was one which had been satisfied.

* 10 W. R., p. 154.

Mr. Cowie admitted that it might be taken that the defendant, Eshan Chunder, bought without any actual knowledge of the facts which constituted satisfaction of the decree; but he relied on the fact that he bought property at a sale as to the legality of which active litigation was going on, and contended that he must have been informed of the proceedings upon the petitions of the 27th and 30th of October.

It is a general rule that, if a purchase is made of property in litigation while such litigation is actually going on, the purchaser is affected in the same manner as if he had notice of the dispute, though, in point of fact, he had no express notice or actual knowledge of the circumstances—*See* Story's Equity Jurisprudence, Section 405; Worsley *versus* The Earl of Scarborough, 3 Atkyns, page 392.

The proceedings in the Court leading up to the sale under which the defendant, Eshan Chunder, claims form a part of his title. I think it clear that he must be treated as if he had bought the property with notice of these proceedings. It must be taken that he knew that there was a contest between the plaintiff and Sharoda Pershad whether the decree had been satisfied or not, and whether the decree could be legally executed. Even if he is not bound by the decision upon the appeal as to the invalidity of the sale, his title must stand or fall with that sale; and if the sale is invalid, as in the present stage of the case we must hold it to be, he cannot pretend to rely on any legal right as a purchaser under proceedings valid upon the face of them, and of the invalidity of which he had no means of informing himself.

For this reason, I think that the judgment of the Subordinate Judge must be reversed.

It is stated that the purchase-money is in Court; and the sale having been set aside, the defendant, Eshan Chunder, is, no doubt, entitled to get back his purchase-money. The plaintiff will have a decree for possession of the property in suit with costs in both the Courts.

Kemp, J.—In the Court below, the Subordinate Judge found on the evidence that it had been established that the decree, in satisfaction of which the sale took place, was purchased by one of the co-debtors in the name of Sharoda Pershad, and that the decree thereby became satisfied. But the Subordinate Judge did not, as h serves, "think it right that, because "the judgment-debtors purchased the "and brought the disputed property "in execution of that decree, that "fore the plaintiff should regain pos "of the said property. Further, that "true that, as the purchase of the "by one of the judgment-debto "tantamount to its satisfaction, no "tion thereof could be taken out "but it is nowhere alleged by the p "in her petition of claim that the "one of the judgment-debtors havi "forced the decree after his purch "the same in the benamee of one "creatures, Sharoda Pershad, was "known to the auction-purchaser, "ant in this case, or that he ha "fraudulent connection in the mat "that he colluded or leagued with th "judgment-debtor." The plaintiff's was dismissed with costs.

It appears to me that the judgment Subordinate Judge is wrong. It has held by the Full B that the purchase decree by one of the ment-debtors operates as a satisfact that decree, and that the judgment so purchasing cannot enforce that dec execution or in any way against h debtors, but the only remedy is to su for contribution.

* Weekly Reporter, Volume IX., page 234.

It therefore being found, and not di before us, that the purchaser of this was made by one of the judgment-deb the name of Sharoda Pershad, the was not one which could have suppor execution. There are, no doubt, rul this Court to the effect that the subs reversal of a decree, which was good time the sale took place, will not af purchase made by a third party. B present case is quite a different one: is a case of a decree which was sa when the sale took place, and which, fore, ought not to have been executed a

There remains the question whethe defendant, Eshan Chunder, the purch had actual or constructive notice th plaintiff had, prior to the sale, declared no sale could legally take place, inas as the decree had been satisfied by the chase of one of the judgment-debto the name of Sharoda Pershad. Now clear that the plaintiff did distinctly

ecord this objection prior to the sale in etition dated the 7th Bhadro 1272, B. S. sked the Court to take evidence on the t, and the Court directed her to adduce nce. Notwithstanding this, and in the of two or three attempts prior to sale e part of the plaintiff to be permitted ve her pleas, the Court proceeded to e disputed property.

ppears to me clear that with this speci- ection to the sale, which was on record e the sale took place, the purchaser hased at his own risk. He was put on ry, and ought to have satisfied himself the decree was one which could be rced. The purchaser has been examin- He admits that he has known Sharoda had, the benamee purchaser, from his hood; and that he, the purchaser, was, if s not now, in the service of the judg- t-debtor who purchased the decree. I not for a moment believe that, under such umstances, he was, as he states, entirely rant of the fact that the purchase had made benamee, or of the nature of the tiff's objections to the sale taking place.

to the consent of the plaintiff to which Subordinate Judge alludes, I observe when the Court determined to proceed le, and refused to inquire into the plaint- objections, the plaintiff's pleader asked ave one of the properties lotted sold , as it was probable that the sale of that perty would satisfy the decree, and render necessary to sell the other lots. This no consent to the sale or recognition of gality.

has been contended that the plaint does distinctly state that the defendant, the haser, had notice of the plaintiff's objec- to the sale; but on turning to the plaint, d that the plaintiff distinctly states that "urged that the sale could not legally proceeded with, and that the sale was cted without any adjudication of her ections."

On the whole case, it appears to me clear—

st.—That there was no decree existing ch could support the execution and sale.

nd.—That the defendant had, if not ac- constructive notice of the plaintiff's tion, and that he purchased without mak- the inquiry which the recorded objection the plaintiff put him upon making.

The purchase-money is in deposit in the Court, and can be refunded to the defendant.

I would reverse the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and decree the plaintiff's suit with costs of both Courts payable by the respondents.

Glover, J.—I entirely concur in this judgment.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Markby, *Judges.*

Memoranda of evidence—Recorded depositions —Raj —Inheritance—Custom (local or family) —Exclusion of females—Evidence.

Case No. 254 of 1868.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga, dated the 12th September 1868.

Maharanee Heeranath Kooeree (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Baboo Burm Narain Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

The Advocate-General (Mr. Cowie) and *Baboo Onookool Chunder Mookerjee* for Appellant.

Mr. A. T. T. Peterson for Respondent.

Where there is conflict between a Judge's memoranda of evidence and the recorded depositions of the witnesses, the Court must be guided by the latter.

HELD (*by Jackson, J.*) that where the right of succession to a Raj or zemindaree (dignity and estates) depends upon the custom which regulates the devolution of the Raj, the true question as between rival claimants is, which of them is favored by the custom as known to the public functionaries of the district, as recognized by the family itself of the late Rajah, and as established by precedents.

HELD (*by Jackson, J.*) that, for the purpose of ascertaining the custom of any given family on particular points, there can be no more important source of information that the declaration of successive heads of the family on solemn occasions.

HELD (*by Markby, J.*) that, where the impartibility of the dignity and estates of a Raj had its origin, not in any custom, family or local, but in the peculiar character of the Raj itself, and which by its very nature was indivisible, the nature of the Raj would not exclude from inheritance any persons of either sex if without physical or intellectual infirmity.

HELD (*by Markby, J.*) that, in order to establish a *koolachar*, or family-custom of descent, there must be shown either a clear, distinct, and positive tradition in the family that the custom exists, or a long series of instances of anomalous inheritance from which the *koolachar* may be inferred.

HELD (*by Markby, J.*) that, to establish a local custom to exclude females from inheritance by instances of exclusion in a certain district, the district must be stated and described geographically, in which the custom is now, and for a long time has been, prevalent, and which includes the property in question. A sufficient number of instances of exclusion within that locality must then be adduced to establish that the custom extends to the whole district, and therefore governs the succession in dispute. Until some connection, geographical or political, is shown to exist between two districts, there is no ground for inferring the custom of one district from its existence in another.

Jackson, J.—THE subject of investigation in this suit is the right of succession to the Raj or zemindaree (the dignity and the estates) of Ramghur in Chota Nagpore, vacant by the death of Triloke Nath, the infant son of the last actual Maharajah Ram Nath Singh Bahadoor.

The infant in question was a posthumous child, and it seems that, on the death of the Maharajah without issue, the Court of Wards had assumed the charge of the estates which it still retains pending a decision by the Civil Courts as to the party really entitled.

The present suit was commenced by Baboo Burm Narain Singh, as next agnate, against the officer of the Court of Wards in possession, and against the widow of the late Maharajah Ram Nath, mother of the deceased infant, as "opposer of the plaintiff's claim."

This lady alleged herself to be entitled as heir on the death of her husband and her son (paragraph 3, written statement). But she claimed one portion of the property in suit, namely, *guddee khurkur*, as her own, alleging it to have been purchased for her with her money by her late husband.

In a separate suit, the same local Court had to decide between the claims of the present plaintiff, and a third person who asserted his right as a nearer kinsman but cognate.

Burm Narain was successful in both suits, and both his opponents appealed to this Court. The appeal of the cognate has been decided, and we are now concerned with appeal of the widow mother.

In determining this appeal, there are considerations which it seems to me im tant to keep in view.

The first is that, although in point of Burm Narain is plaintiff and the Ran defendant, yet, in fact, both stand upo same ground as claimants of an estate is in the custody of the Court of Wards therefore the burden of proof does not on the one side more than on the other.

The second is that the Ranee does not more than her antagonist claim the pro under the strict provisions of the Hi Law, but that both parties, while refer generally to the Shastras (see their p and written statement respectively), appealed to the custom which regulates devolution of this Raj—and this, I t it abundantly clear for other reasons, be the basis of our decision.

The plaintiff, of course, more emphatic relies on this custom or *kootachar*, but defendant also gives her own version so as to show her own right and to exc the plaintiff, which I think is evident reading the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, and a tion of the last paragraph of her wr statement together.

But what seems to me decisive on point is the judgment of the Sudder C in 1813 between the ancestor of B Narain and the Maharajah of that tim Select Reports, pp. 92-97).

The opinion of the Court (which dispo of the suit) was in these terms: page "Adverting, however, to the extent "situation of the estate, to the zemin "possessing the title of Rajah, and to "maintaining a sort of feudal establishm "of troops and dependant jageerdars "Court could entertain little doubt th "was not a common estate divisible by "laws of inheritance."

It does not precisely appear whether Sudder Dewanny Adawlut concurred in dissented from, the view taken by the P vincial Court in that case, namely, Regulation X. of 1800 did not apply to estate (I should have been inclined to ad that it did); but the question does not se to be of much importance, for the cust abolished by Regulation XI. of 1793 and p tially restored by the later law is that non-partition, and that alone.

or I think is it material to inquire whe-, as stated by Baboo Shama Churn Sir- (in his Digest, page 19 (foot-note), 2nd on), the effect of the bewusta and the ment in the case of Ishan Chand *versus* Chunder Roy* is to clothe large zemin- s with the attributes of principalities.

e term Raj and the title Rajah as used odern times do undoubtedly occasion tain amount of confusion. A pretty account of the matter will be found e answers to a series of questions on rights and privileges of landholders, by Gholam Hossein Khan (author of *Siar-ool-Mootakhereea*) and the *Roy Roy*- printed in Harington's Analysis, Volume pages 314-356—*see* especially the ers to question 31—and the case of h Tej Singh (there called Taj Singh) xpressly mentioned by Gholam Hossein n, who calls him (question 30) the ndar of Ramgurh.

he true question, therefore, in this case s to be whether the custom of the gurh zemindaree or Raj, as deposed to persons acquainted with it as known e public functionaries of the district, ecognized by the family itself, and as blished by precedents, favors the suc- on of the male heir or of the widow mother.

he question has been a little complicated, shifting or widening of the issue (I am sure which), so as to include a *local* m; but it seems to me that, as far as the ntiff is concerned, this amounts to no- more than his seeking to strengthen evidence as to *koolachar* or custom in own family, by showing that a similar m prevailed in families of the same or the same rank in the vicinity.

we look at it in this point of view, are, I think, relieved from certain dif- ies as to the kind of proof required as to the precise allegation of the ntiff.

n this way, also, we are less embarrassed abstract questions of Hindoo Law; and also conform to the injunctions of Menu, k VIII. verse 41, where he prescribes ry into the "rules of certain families" among the "peculiar laws" which are e "established" (if they be not repug- to the law of God, adds Cúllúca).

* 1 S. D. A., p. 2.

Upon the issue I have stated, it seems to me that the plaintiff was entitled to judgment, and that he has been properly declared entitled to succeed to the Raj and the estates.

I think that the witnesses called by the plaintiff prove that in the belief of members of the family and by general repute the *koolachar* excluded females.

From the mode in which the Judge's notes of the evidence are worded, it would seem at first sight as if the witnesses, or at any rate most of them, meant to affirm as the only custom with which they were acquainted the succession of a single heir and the non-participation of younger brothers; but I think this was not the meaning of the witnesses, as shown by the original depositions, and that they meant to be as explicit on the one point as on the other.

The occasional conflict between the Judge's memoranda and the recorded depositions is, no doubt, very embarrassing, and it is especially vexatious where the memorandum is not full, and where the Judges of appeal are unacquainted or imperfectly acquainted with the vernacular. In fact, the more nearly the note approaches to a complete representation of the witness's testimony, the greater is the difficulty; and I may say that in some cases the inclination of my mind has been to suspect that the note represented more exactly the witness's meaning than the actual deposition did.

But I think there can be no doubt that, in case of difference, the actual recorded evidence *in extenso* is what we must be guided by; and it is to be hoped that the Procedure Code may shortly be improved in this respect, so as to get rid altogether of the double record.

And in considering the recorded evidence in this case, as well as the written statements, allegations, and oral pleadings of the parties, large allowance must be made for the circumstances of the trial. Courts highly untechnical and simple, pleaders very imperfectly educated and trained, agents whose advice continually misleads, compel us to to be extremely cautious in the inference we draw from the line taken by either party in Court, and in the construction which we put on the evidence recorded.

It is safer to collect the meaning of a witness from the whole of his testimony

than to give their full meaning to isolated parts of it. And if the witnesses in the present case be so dealt with, I think the plaintiff's contention will be found to be amply substantiated, so far, that is, as in the nature of the case the witnesses could go.

For instance, I understand the first witness, Thakoor Jeth Singh, a witness from his age and position of great importance, to affirm a family-custom whereby Maharanees, widows, do not inherit the estate, but receive an assignment of land worth Rupees 4,000 yearly for their maintenance. He also affirms the custom of succession by a single heir, younger brothers receiving maintenance, maintenance in both cases, as usual under the Mitakshara, indicating incapacity for, and exclusion from, an inheritance of the estate.

In like manner, Thakoor Sirvee Singh, a person of good family, it would seem, though not of the Ramghur house, positively says: "No Maharanee has ever sat in the guddee; "it is not the custom of the family," which in the native idiom is tantamount to saying there is a custom against it.

The third winess, Nund Lall Singh, does not speak very decidedly; but the tendency of his evidence is against female succession, and it is remarkable that such evidence was, though remotely, against his own interest, his father having married a daughter of Koonwar Bodh Singh (plaintiff's ancestor and youngest son of the first Maharajah), and he himself, therefore, being in the possible line of descent if daughter's sons could inherit, which, according to the other witnesses, they could not in this family.

The 4th and 5th witnesses merely say that they never heard of instances of a woman succeeding to the guddee, but it is to be observed that the defendant does not appear to have asked in cross-examination whether a female could succeed if the case were to arise.

The same observation applies to the 6th witness, but he refers to the fact (as did the preceding witness) of the widows of three previous Maharajahs being alive and (says the preceding witness) in the receipt of maintenance.

The 9th witness strongly affirms the custom to exclude females, and he is descended on the maternal side from this family.

A still more important witness is Rajah of Beersote (No. 11), the he another great family which intermarrie that of Edruk (Ramgurh), and he di affirms that neither in his own family that of Ramgurh are females cap succeeding.

It is true he goes on to state: "I because no woman has ever sat on dee in that family or in mine." I understand the witness by these w retract his previous affirmance of the c but merely to support it by reference fact.

Some of these witnesses were after re-called, and gave evidence to prove instances in which a similar custom e and had been maintained in spite of by the widows to break through it.

I have no hesitation in saying that, are to decide between this evidence and which is adduced by the defendant to it, I prefer the evidence for the plaintiff.

But to my mind the oral evidence least convincing part of the plaintiff's and there is much more decisive matt hind.

For the purpose of ascertaining the c of any given family on particular there can be no more important source formation than the declaration of succ heads of the family on solemn occasi and in this case that source of infor is open to us.

In the first place, we have the made by Maharajah Shumboo Nath S on the 22nd June 1846, in obedience requisition of the Governor-General's and Commissioner calling for a state heirship to the zemindars and ticca the division.

On that occasion, the Maharajah di ly and publicly acknowledged the pla Burm Narain, as heir next in successi his surviving brother Ramnath, who follo him as Maharajah.

It is said that the form in which the turn is framed would not permit of the tion of wives, but this appears to me idle. The paper is called a "statemen heirship," and the ample column of marks" would certainly permit and have contained the mention of the wife she had been capable of succeeding.

the Maharajah left a widow, and as Hindoos marriage is contracted at a rly age, I think it is to be presumed e was married at the time he made urn—a presumption much strength- y the words in the 4th column of the "at present no son is born." These appear to me indicative of the mar- e and of the expectation of issue.

public act of the Maharajah Shumboo ngh appears to me to be an insuper- stacle for the defendant, and all but ive in favor of the plaintiff.

next we have the petition or memo- the succeeding Maharajah; but be- speak of that paper, I will advert to tory of succession in the family.

timony seems unanimous as to this, either in times antecedent to Tej Singh, t Rajah of the present family, nor in ays, has there been any instance of a succeeding to the guddee; but, as ob- d by the Judge below, there is no exact ation as to the state of the family Tej Singh; so that it cannot be said r it affords examples of the super- of a female heir or not. Nor is any such instance in the early days of sent family, for down to the genera- st passed, there has been abundant sue.

it so happened that the three sons of ajah Sidhnath Singh (who was the randson of Tej Singh) all died with- ale, or indeed, it seems, any issue, aving widows. In each instance the sion was taken up by the next bro- he widow being passed over.

e are thus two instances which, gh modern, are in exact accordance e custom alleged by the plaintiff.

e defendant seeks to get over these by the averment contained in the 5th raph of her written statement, where ys that the three brothers (of whom last was her husband) had lived in l good feeling and commensality, and d in partnership the ancestral pro- y." She goes on to say: "In this e of common interest, on the demise one brother without issue, the next her, upon receiving the mark of Rajah on his forehead from the hands of elder brother, assumed the reign of principality one after another; and "for reasons above stated, as also under "the provisions of the Shastra, the right "of succession to the Raj at that time was "disallowed."

Now, unfortunately for her, the decision of the Sudder Court in 1813 had set at rest the question of "partnership" in the property, not to speak of the evidence on that point. And it is difficult to conceive any theory of joint ownership which should make brother succeed after brother, and then suddenly terminate the course of male descent in favor of the youngest widow.

But the defendant apparently rests her case very much on the fact of commensality between the brothers, as justifying their preference to widows; and in the 4th paragraph she asserts that plaintiff is disqualified by reason of his having lived (as well as his immediate ancestors) separate and at a distance from the senior branch; and in the 8th paragraph she puts this in a different way by objecting to him as a jageerdar.

Those objections appear to be disposed of by Maharajah Shumboo Nath's return, which, of course, would not have recognized Burm Narain if he had been disqualified for any such reasons.

But it is on this part of the case that the memorial of Maharajah Ram Nath, which I mentioned a little way back, appears to me to have so much significance.

This document is dated 17th November 1862, and was written by way of answer and in obedience to a purwannah, apparently of the Deputy Commissioner, transmitting to the Maharajah for explanation two copies of urzees submitted by Maharanee Thakoor Nath Shahee, widow of the late Maharajah Shumboo Nath Singh, in which she appears to have made certain allegations and complaints to the refutation of which accordingly the Rajah addresses himself.

In considering the terms of this petition, it is natural to observe that it begins with a most important recital. It sets out the contents of the official purwannah to which it is an answer, to the following effect: "that Koonwar Ram Nath Singh, *brother* "*and heir* of the deceased Maharajah "Shumboo Nath Singh, has been appointed "Rajah, * * * * that the *Maharanee*, "*petitioner, is entitled to maintenance only*," &c., &c.

The title of the Rajah being thus fully acknowledged by the official whom he was addressing, it was not necessary for him to insist upon the validity of that title, or else we might have expected to find a clear statement of the custom on which that title rested; but he is only concerned to answer the particular statements made by the Maharanee, to which his attention had been called.

But what has struck me very much in connection with this paper is this. If the custom or tradition of the family had been what the defendant represents, namely, that of brothers living in commensality, one took after the other in the absence of male issue, and that the last of such brothers would be succeeded by his widow (the brief existence of the posthumous son is little noticed throughout this case), we should most probably have found it asserted in the petition of this Rajah, for he was precisely in this position—the last of three brothers who had, one after another, succeeded to the guddee, not young, married, but with doubtful chances of male issue.

Is it likely that in such circumstances he would not have saved the claim of his own wife (the now defendant), as against a distant relative with whom he does not appear to have been on any terms of intimacy. But he nowhere makes any reference to such rights, and speaks of the wife of the late Maharajah as being entitled to maintenance, according to the custom of the family, "just as other Maharanees receive," without any sort of distinction.

Nor does he appear at any time previous to his death to have made any such statement in her favor, although he might reasonably have been expected to do so; for she was only three months advanced in pregnancy at the time of his death, and it would be, of course, uncertain of which sex the child would be.

Another very important point in the plaintiff's favor is the declaration of the Judge who tried the suit, that, in that, part of the country, women do not inherit estates of the class to which the Ramgurh zemindaree belongs. I understand the Judge to refer, not merely to the district of Lohurdugga in which he happened to be sitting, or that of Hazareebagh to which the suit properly belonged, but to the division or province of Chota Nagpore; and the declaration is of the more importance, because the Judge is not merely the officer presiding in the Civil Court, but also the head of his district in executive matters, and necessarily versed in the political condition of the province.

The times and the present constitution of our Civil Courts are favorable to the advancement of claims which in other days would not have been brought forward. The pretension which was faintly suggested on the death of a former Maharajah has now been set up with more boldness; but I think it has been properly overruled. And I am bound to add that, according to my own knowledge and belief in such cases, to reverse the judgment of the Court below and to sanction the claims of the defendant would create a most dangerous precedent, and would introduce into a large tract of country the most serious confusion and distrust.

In my judgment, therefore, the decision of the Lower Court should be affirmed, and this appeal dismissed with costs.

Markby, J.—This was a suit brought by the plaintiff to recover a large amount of real and personal property which was in the hands of the Court of Wards.

The plaintiff alleged that the property in question belonged to him as successor to the Raj of Ramgurh. The representative of the Court of Wards, who is a defendant, claims no interest in, or right to retain, the property, and only asks for costs. The other defendant claims also by right of succession all the property except that called Guddee Khurkur, and this she claims as her stridhun.

The general history of the Ramgurh family and the estates belonging to it during the past 100 years is well known, and not disputed. About the year 1772, the then Rajah Mokund Singh having come into collision with the British Government on account of his refusal to pay revenue, an expedition was sent against him. Two members of the family, Tej Singh and Jye Sree Singh, assisted the British Governm t against their relative; and ultimately e estate having been declared to be forfeit . it was conferred upon Tej Singh by e British Government, together with the t e of Rajah or Maharajah, which is the ti e generally used in this family. Success e pottahs were granted by the British Gove - ment to Maharajah Tej Singh and his eld t son Maharajah Parush Nath Singh for limit l

ds, and ultimately on the 25th 1790 an ordinary settlement for 10 was made with Maharajah Monee Singh, the eldest son of Maharajah h Nath Singh, which settlement was islative provision subsequently made ual.

the lifetime of Maharajah Monee Singh, a claim was made by Boodh , the youngest son of Maharajah Tej , to have the family-property divided usual way. The claim was contested, he litigation was continued after the of Maharajah Monee Nath Singh by dest son, Maharajah Sidh Nath Singh. Singh in that case rested his claim e partition on two grounds, first, on an gement between the Maharajah Tej and his sons made at the time of the ; and secondly, on the general ground eritance. The Sudder Court, confirm- he decision of the Courts below, consi- that the alleged arrangement was not lished by proof; and according to the of the case in the Select Reports me II., page 97) "with respect to the dity of the claim of the plaintiff ac- ding to the Hindoo Law of Inhe- nce, the Court observed that this point ed upon the further question whe- the estate in dispute was to be con- red a common zemindaree divisible by laws of inheritance, or one of those tes which, by the custom noticed in abolished by Regulation XI. of 1793" restored by Regulation X. of 1800], cended to one heir in exclusion of all other members of the family. Ad- ting, however, to the extent and si- ion of the estate, to the zemindar essing the title of Rajah, and to his ntaining a sort of feudal establishment roops and dependant jageerdars, the rt could entertain little doubt that as not a common zemindaree divisible the laws of inheritance." The term is not used in this judgment, but the arajah, on that occasion, in stating his , says: "According to the custom of the ountainous country and the usage of the mily, the estate was not divisible; but t, on the death of the Rajah for the e being, he is always succeeded in the *aj and zemindaree* by the eldest son, to e entire exclusion of the other branches the family."

aharajah Sidh Nath Singh, who was confirmed in the possession of the dignity and estates, left three sons; Maharajah Luchmee Nath Singh, who died in the year 1842 without issue, but leaving a widow. The widow did not, however, succeed, as she would have done in the usual course of succession to a husband's separate estate, but the next brother, Maharajah Shumboo Nath Singh, did so. He died about the year 1862, also without issue, and leaving a widow; but again the widow was passed over, and the succession was assumed by Maharajah Ram Nath Singh, who died on the 9th October 1866, leaving his widow—the present defendant. She was then pregnant, and was delivered of a son in the following April; but this son survived only a few months, and it was during this period that the Court of Wards took possession of the estate. On the death of this child, both the plaintiff and the female defendant claimed the property, and the plaintiff brought this suit.

What we have, therefore, to consider is whether the plaintiff has made out his title. If he has not, this suit must be dismissed without regard to whether the widow has made out her claim or not.

Before considering whether the plaintiff's title is established by the evidence, I will state generally what I consider to be the nature of the claim which the plaintiff seeks to establish, and which differs in important particulars from an ordinary claim to immoveable property.

I am not aware of any definition of a Raj which will enable me to say precisely whether or not the succession in dispute in this case is properly denominated the succession to a Raj. I imagine that, where that term is used, it rather represents a dignity than an estate—though it may sometimes be used to include an estate where that estate is appurtenant to the dignity. And from the expressions which have been currently used in the family, such as "ascending the guddee," "affixing the teeluk," and so forth, I imagine that there was in this family some hereditary dignity, and this dignity has been sometimes called a Raj.

It is, at any rate, certain that the estates now in dispute are not susceptible of division, and that the persons who, under the ordinary Mitakshara Law of Inheritance, would have been joint owners were entitled to maintenance only. That appears to have been disputed in the Court below, but is not in dispute now. Whether this was by

koolachar, *i. e.*, family-custom, or by local custom, or how otherwise, has not in this case been distinctly asserted. In the case in the Select Reports already referred to, it was put by the then Maharajah on two grounds, but, of course, only one can exist in point of fact; and I gather that the Sudder Court considered that the custom which regulated the descent of these estates was that abolished by Regulation XI. of 1793, and re-established by Regulation X. of 1800. But that custom, as it exists now, is not, strictly speaking, either a family or a local one. It is hardly what is usually called a custom at all. It is the exceptional course of descent of particular estates, not having its legal origin in any ancient usage of a family or district, but in purely financial considerations, and clearly, therefore, founded on the special permission or agreement of the ruling power. That exceptional course of descent was abolished; but Regulation X. of 1800 provided that the "local custom of the country" in the jungle mehals and other similar districts should nevertheless be continued in full force.

There is no doubt that this last Regulation applies to the district where this property is situated, and the Sudder Court seems to have thought the succession to these estates was governed by it. But I think it may be considered as a matter of great doubt whether these Regulations have any application to the course of descent either of the dignity or of the estates of this family. I think it more probable that this is one of those cases in which primogeniture has been adopted, not for financial reasons regarding the estate, as in the cases referred to in Regulation XI. of 1793, but for political reasons regarding the dignity which at one time was, in all probability, if not regal, at least viceregal, and by its very nature therefore indivisible; and it appears to me that the estates are, as the plaintiff puts it in his plaint, appurtenant to the Raj, or as it is put by the Privy Council in the case of the Tipperah Raj* (and which comes to the same thing), the title to the dignity and to the estate are one.

If this be the right view of this case (and I think it is so), then it is clear that the impartibility of the dignity and estates has its origin, not in any custom, family or local, nor in the Regulations, but in the peculiar character of the Raj itself. The qu might, indeed, arise how the estates be appended to the dignity, so that they pa under one and the same title, whethe permission or agreement of the gover body, or by family or local custom. however, is only a matter of historic terest, because the origin of a parti course of descent is only important as ing to clear up obscure questions of in ance which arise under it; but in the sent case the estates being appurtena the Raj, their course of descent is, if I so say, absorbed in that of the dignity, may be altogether disregarded. Havin certained the successor to the Raj, the cession to the estates follows.

This point of view appears to me impo for several reasons. In the first place thus get rid entirely of the Regulations of 1793 and X. of 1800, and thus of a tion which appears to me of some diffi namely, whether all customs being away in 1793, any custom, except the one of impartibility which alone was re in 1800, could now exist. In the next p it identifies the present case entirely wi case of the Tipperah Raj, and dispose argument which has been used here, as also used there, that the dignity and e though impartible, must nevertheless, ascertaining the course of descent, be treat the property of a joint family in which family are jointly interested; that the exceptional right is that they are held enjoyed by the eldest among the per who would otherwise be entitled to jointly; and that, on the death of a R the next successor to the Raj takes, n heir, but by virtue of his own previous suspended right. In the case before both parties have asserted that the ap tion of this rule would be favorable to claim; but the Privy Council, affirmi decision of this Court in the Tipperah c expressly hold that it not the rule to be ap in such cases. They down that the prin which governs the descent in these case that the heir will be that person who w have succeeded under the Mitakshara to the separate property, unless that law been modified by custom. This mode establishing a title may, therefore, be out of consideration, though I shall have refer to it again as throwing light up document which has been much relied o this case.

* 1 W. R., P. C., p. 180.

* (1 Sutherland's Weekly Reporter, page 180.)

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ly, from this point of view, it is clear e exceptional course of descent of the so far as it is grounded on the nature e thing inherited, will only warrant a ture from the ordinary law of inherit- so far as the nature of that thing re- The nature of the Raj has been ered to require that it should be im- e, but it seems hardly impossible, to that the nature of the Raj itself ex- any persons of either sex, if they are t physical or intellectual infirmity. n, any person is to be excluded, who , as senior in age and nearest of kin, the ordinary Hindoo Law, be entitled ceed, it must be by some custom modi- still further the peculiar course of de- which has already sprung from the of the thing inherited.

o not understand it to be disputed that laintiff's title stands in need of such a n. Unless he can establish a custom clude females, he cannot succeed; er or not the defendant, widow, would ucceed is another question.

question before us is thus reduced to There being an impartible dignity to property is attached, and the succes- which is governed generally by the f inheritance of separate property ac- to the Mitakshara, have those rules modified by any local or family-cus-

h a custom the plaintiff has attempted blish, and the question which remains decided in this case is whether or no succeeded in doing so. If he has not, as it seems to me clear, his suit must

ink it is unfortunate in this case that aintiff, who relied upon the custom, was lled upon to state it with precision. in my opinion, next to impossible that om should exist, and not be capable g so stated. To my mind, it would ign that the custom is either obsolete never been fully established, if it did adily assume a precise form of words ar to the minds of those amongst whom to be applied. No legal skill or ex- nce is required to state a custom. It is re statement of fact, and nothing is common than to find ignorant people customs with precision. Indeed, we find that none of the witnesses in this have any difficulty in stating a custom. Very likely from the ignorance or carelessness of those who drew this plaint it might not be therein fully stated; but I think the Deputy Commissioner ought to have required it to be stated in a definite form, or at least in one or more definite forms, when settling the issues. I do not think this would have been an unreasonable demand on the intelligence of these parties; and I think it was impossible to try this suit properly without having done so. As the issue on this point was originally drawn on the 23rd June 1868, it stood thus: "According to the Hindoo "Shastras and the custom of the Ramgurh "family, who, among the different parties "to the suit, is entitled to succeed to the "Raj vacant by the death of Ram Nath "Singh's son, Triloke Nath Singh?"

On the 19th August 1868, this issue was substituted: "According to the Hindoo "Mitakshara Shastras and the customs of "*the Ramgurh family and country*, who, "of the different parties to this suit, is en- "titled to succeed to the Raj vacant by the "death of Ram Nath Singh's son, Triloke "Nath Singh?" This, as appears from the record, included both the so-called custom as the impartibility and the custom to exclude females. Intermediately between this change in the issue, that is to say, on the 14th August, ten witnesses had been examined by the plaintiff. When the issue was amended on the following day, both parties, on being asked, said they had no wish to examine these witnesses further, and the defendant then examined four witnesses. On the 17th August, the defendant, widow, applied for and obtained a postponement on the ground that the insertion of the word "country" in the issue might make it necessary for her to procure further evidence. The case was accordingly postponed for final hearing to September 2nd, but it was intimated that "the other evidence now on the record "would be duly examined at once;" by which I understand it to be meant that the defendant might bring in any other witnesses than those already named in the list at any time until the 2nd of September, but that, according to the irregular mode in which evidence is usually taken in this country, the examination of the witnesses already summoned would in the meantime proceed. On the same day (August 17th), notwithstanding the intimation to the contrary previously made, the 1st, 4th, and 5th witnesses for the plaintiff were re-called and re-examined. On the 27th August, the plaintiff examined his 11th witness. On

the 10th September the defendant called his 5th witness. Most of the documentary evidence was put in on the 19th August, but some further documents were put in on a date which is not given. My reasons for setting out at length these particulars will appear presently.

With regard to the evidence given by the witnesses, I must say I have felt very great difficulty in ascertaining what was really said by them. A printed copy has been furnished to us of what is called "Notes of evidence," which I suppose to be the notes taken by the Deputy Commissioner, and this is placed before us as the materials on which we are to base our decision. But it differs in many respects from the deposition taken in the vernacular by an officer of the Court below. The course taken on this argument, which I consider by no means a satisfactory one, has been to read the printed copy of the Deputy Commissioner's notes, correcting it by a reference, as the argument proceeded to the deposition in the vernacular. I have found this course to be in this, as in other cases in which it has been followed, extremely embarrassing. It is not easy to follow an argument on evidence when there is a running conflict all through as to what the evidence is, and very difficult to decide upon evidence which we have to collect from two conflicting sources of information; and as there may still be discussion as to what the evidence really is, I desire to make it clear on what materials my judgment is based.

The first witness, Thakoor Jetta Singh, is a member of the Ramgurh family. His evidence is chiefly confined to the existing state of the family, and he says that three widows of Maharajahs besides the plaintiff are still alive. He states that "these widows re-" ceive maintenance according to family-cus-" tom. The family-custom is for the widow " Maharanee to receive land as maintenance " worth Rupees 4,000 yearly. *The custom of* " *the family is for the actual heirs to inherit* " *the whole property. Younger sons get only* " *maintenance.*" Further on he says that, " prior to Tej Singh's time, no woman ever " obtained the guddee;" and he also says that "in this family the son of a daughter " never succeeds."

Baboo Thakoor Singh (witness No. 4), who is also of the Ramgurh family, says he has " never seen or heard of a woman inheriting " the guddee in this family. *The custom of* " *the family is that the eldest son in* " *the guddee, the younger sons are* " *wars and get maintenance-jagheers.*" " know of the family-customs by he" " from the time of Tej Singh, and by " " I have myself seen from the time of L" " mee Nath Singh. I am descended " " a branch of the family which branch" " prior to Tej Singh's time. I never " " of any woman sitting on the guddee" " to Tej Singh's time."

Thakoor Kishen Pershad Singh (wi No. 5) is also of the Ramgurh family line which branched off prior to Tej Si time. He states that he "never heard " woman succeeding to the guddee. " *custom of the family is that the elde* " *inherits the guddee, and the younger* " *the Koonwars, get maintenance-jaghee*

Witnesses 6, 7, 8, and 10 are servan the family. Golab Singh Chowdhry, ness No. 6, says he "never heard of a " man ascending the guddee in the Ra " family. *The family-custom is for* " *elder son to inherit the guddee, an* " *younger sons to get maintenance-grant*

Mahta Toolsee Ram, witness No. 7, " In that family females never did " *The family-custom is for the elder* " *inherit the guddee, and the younger* " *to get maintenance.*"

Gunnoo Singh, witness No. 8, a jem says: "Since the time that I have seen, " that time I know that *the custom of* " *family is that females never do* " *the guddee.*"

Chowdhry Khem Lall, witness No. mohurrir, says: "*It is the custom in this* " *ly that no woman succeeds to the* " On a Rajah dying, the elder son pu " to the guddee, and the younger get " tenance."

Witnesses 2, 3, 9, and 11 are neigh Thakoor Sirvee Singh (No. 2) says: " *Maharanee has ever sat on the gudd* " *is not the custom of the family.*" koor Nund Lall Singh, witness No a connection by marriage, says: "I " heard of a woman in this family rece " the guddee. *The custom of the* " *try is that the elder son ascend* " *guddee, and the younger sons get* " *tenance.*" Baboo Charuna Singh, wi No. 9, also a connection of the family, " *It is not the custom of the family*

man to succeed to the guddee. When are more sons of a Maharajah than , the eldest inherits the Raj, and the nger receives maintenance."

jah Ram Kurun Deo says that he is Rajah of Beersote, and pays rent to Maharajah of Ramgurh. "My family stinct from the Ramgurh family, but eat together, and we intermarry. Maajah Ram Nath Singh married the ghter of my paternal grand-uncle's son, there have been other intermarres. The customs of my family and he Ramgurh family are not the same all points. I know the customs of Maharajah of Echak's (*i. e.*, the Ramh) family. Our customs as to inhence are the same, and in the Mahah of Echak's family no woman up to time has sat on a guddee. Neit has such taken place nor have I n it. *and a woman cannot succeed to guddee by virtue of the family-custom. has never so happened; hence I say t a woman cannot succeed to the dee.* No person in my family has, up this time, died childless. My Raj is of 52 generations, and the sons have tinually succeeded all along."

ese extracts contain all the oral evie which I have been able to discover of mily-custom by reputation. The prindocument is one put in by the plaintiff. a petition of the husband of the defendthe late Maharajah Ram Nath Singh, ng the claim of the widow of Shumboo Singh, who seemed at that time ind to assert her rights. The following brief analysis of that petition according e translation (apparently not a very ctory representation of the original) has been laid before me. It is dated th November 1862. It is not signed by one, nor does it appear to whom it is ssed: but as both parties have relied as a statement made by Ram Nath h, I may so take it. It begins by ring to two purwannahs of the person to m it is addressed, which had been sent to Nath Singh, together with a copy of a ion of the Maharanee Thakoor Nath e, the widow of the Maharajah Shum-Nath Singh. One of these purwannahs en recited, and it seems to be an acledgment of the title of Ram Nath to the Raj, and of the Maharanee to tenance, and to contain a request by the that proper provision for the Maharanee's maintenance should be made. After this recital, the claim of the Maharanee to the suit as heiress is denied by Ram Nath Singh, and his own claim is thus stated: "As the Ramgurh zemindaree is an ancient "ancestral property of your petitioner, ac-"cording to the family and ancient usage, "(the Maharajah) in good health and in a "sound state of mind in the presence of "assembled parties marked your petitioner "with the teeluk of Raj, and died." Then he sets out the history of the family from the time of Maharajah Sidh Nath Singh, and points out that Maharajah Luchmee Nath Singh, though survived by his widow and a daughter, was succeeded by his brother; and then he says: "In view of these "circumstances, agreeably to the family-"usage, law and equity, reason and tradi-"tion, the Maharanee is entitled to nothing "more than food and raiment; *because your "petitioner and two others are three full "brothers, and in default of heirs they suc-"ceed to the Raj one after another.*"

Then follows the answer to the second purwannah. It again refers to the Maharanee's petition, and to an assertion by her that Ram Nath Singh lived separate from his brother, Sbumboo Nath Singh, and acted as his Dewan. This is strenuously denied by Ram Nath, who asserts that he and Shumboo Nath were "full brothers sharing in each other's gain and loss," and that he only assumed the management of the property according to custom when Shumboo Nath became too infirm to transact business. He then gives instances of a similar arrangement to this with regard to the management in other families, and denies that his having managed the business of the zemindaree is any evidence of separation. He goes on to say that, with the exception of himself, no one had any right in the property; and "since *he was a partner, and had a right "in the Raj*, no benamee could be effected "in his name," for which reason all the business was transacted in the benamee or fictitious name of Kumaree Burgah, a domestic. Subsequently he refers to the statement he had already made that the teeluk was affixed on his forehead, and then again combats the statement that he had separated from his brother. He then denies some allegations which the Maharanee had made of ill-treatment. Next, he refers to certain instances of succession cited by the Maharanee in her petition in her own favor, and says that "the practice of the jungle mehals is different from that of other districts. Some

instances of the practice and usage of the jungle mehals are here given." Then he cites the case (1) of Palgunge, in which the brother succeeded in presence of the widow and nephew of the late Rajah; (2) of Koonda, in which the nephew succeeded in presence of the late Rajah's widow; (3) of Gowan, in which a cousin in the fourth degree succeeded in presence of a female (the widow, no doubt) and a nephew of the late Rajah: "whereas," he says, "your petitioner is *the* "*full brother* of the late Maharajah, and lived "in commensality with him: hence he is en-"titled to the Raj, considering his right from "any point of view. The instances adduced "of the Tekaree Ranee are not sufficient. The "share of Baboo Motee Ram Singh was divi-"ded by the Court. *Moreover, he left no near* "*heir, and consequently the Ranees came to* "*possession;* but the case of your petitioner "is different, for he is full brother, lived in "the same house, and ate at the same table "with the Maharajah, and received by the "Maharajah's own hands the mark of "teeluk." The rest of the petition is taken up with again denying the Maharanee's complaints of ill-treatment, and offering to allow her a suitable maintenance.

The only other document relied on is a return filled up by Maharajah Shumboo Nath Singh, at the request of the Agent of the Governor General, dated the 22nd June 1846. It relates to the succession to the Raj and the Ramgurh estates, and there is no mention whatever of his wife in that document as his heiress. But the plaintiff, who relies on this document, has not shown whether or no Maharajah Shumboo Nath Singh had then a wife, and further the form in which the information is asked for itself to some extent precludes the mention of the wife. It, therefore, appears to me of little value.

After much consideration, I find myself unable to arrive at the conclusion that this evidence establishes any family-custom which would exclude females. I take it that, in order to establish a koolachar, or family-custom of descent, you must at least show one of two things—either a clear, distinct, and positive tradition in the family that the koolachar exists, or a long series of instances of anomalous inheritance from which the koolachar may be inferred.

It is said in a case reported in 2 Select Reports, p. 117, that "to legalize any deviation from the strict letter of the law, it is necessary that the usage should have prevalent during a long succession of ancestors, when it becomes known by the of koolachar." But I imagine that a tinct tradition in the family would the place of ancient examples of the ap tion of the usage.

The evidence above stated, however, convince me that in this family there clear tradition that by special family-females are excluded from inheritance.

Of the eleven witnesses called all what the custom is. Six witnesses, of three are members of the family, one neighbour, and two are servants of the state the custom without any reference the exclusion of females. Four (of one is a neighbour, one is a distant nection, and two are servants of the fa state that by custom females are excl The witnesses who state the custo exclude females are, therefore, not fewer in number, but considerably in in means of knowledge to the witnesses omit that statement. Indeed, the om of *all* the members of the family to the custom to exclude females is to mind almost conclusive against there any clear and distinct reputation in family that such a custom exists.

Next to the members of the family far the most important witness is the Rajah Ram Narain Deo. Indeed, I am sure, from the evident care and detail which his statements are made, and his ledge of the subject, that he is not the important witness of all. Yet, to my he as much as admits that there is no fa tradition on the subject. Having said, woman cannot succeed by virtue of fa custom," he immediately adds, "*It has so happened; hence I say that a w cannot succeed to the guddee.*" I can look on this as an inference of a custo the witness from a certain series of o but that is an inference for the Court not for the witness. How far that infer is justified, I will consider presently.

This evidence would, in my opi scarcely afford ground for inferring a fa custom, if it stood alone. But it appe me to be much weakened by the petitio Ram Nath, which seems to me to make strongly against any tradition in this fa that females are excluded.

For whatever reason he may have desirous of doing so, it is, I think, obv

Ram Nath was at that moment strongly ting the rights of his brother's widow, desirous of placing his own title on the est grounds. He would, therefore, dly have inserted so complete an to the Maharanee's claim as a family- to exclude females would afford if d been aware of its existence. But beginning to end I find not the least it. The ground on which he bases im to the Raj and the estates are tly clear; first, because he has been d with the teeluck by the late Maha- ; secondly and principally, because he the two last Maharajahs were *full rs joint and undivided*. It seems that he refers to family-usage only as lishing the impartibility of the Raj, hat he takes up exactly the position was assumed by the plaintiff in the rah case, and which, though declared Privy Council to be erroneous, is not common notion, namely, that a full r succeeds in preference to the widow cestral impartible property. I take etition to fall as evidence little short tegorical statement by Ram Nath that, as he knew, no trace of any custom lude females generally existed in the ; and being made by a person strongly sted in asserting such a custom, it is d to full credit. It seems to me ly possible that any tradition of such om could exist in the family without Nath having been aware of it, and I do d in the petition any sign whatever relessness or inability such as would me to suppose that he would omit so ant a statement.

ems to me, therefore, that the attempt blish the family-custom by evidence of ion has failed. I very much regret ere should be a difference of opinion is point, and I regret that we have re the assistance of the Deputy Com- ner who heard the evidence. He finds clearly on the evidence that by family- m the Raj is impartible, but he expresses pinion whatever on the oral evidence mily-custom to exclude females. He to me to base his opinion on that point tirely different grounds.

will now take the evidence of cases of lous descent from which the custom clude females is sought to be inferred. consists of two parts, first, the uniform ent of all the witnesses that they never or heard of a woman succeeding to the guddee in this family; and, secondly, the fact that in 1842 and again in 1862, the widow of a Maharajah was passed over in favor of a younger brother.

With regard to the first part of this evidence, if we take the view that the Deputy Commissioner seems to have taken (*see* his judgment, page 20 *ad fin.*) that there is no evidence of the succession prior to Tej Singh's time, and that we must judge of the custom entirely from what has happened since that time, there is, of course, nothing in it whatever. From Tej Singh to Luchmee Nath son succeeded father in regular course, and the occasion for exclusion of a widow never arose. And upon the whole, though some of the witnesses seem to assert as a matter of family-history that no woman has ever been known to succeed, yet I think the Deputy Commissioner has rightly considered that this is not to be relied on as establishing a general exclusion of females. Succession in the direct line of father and son 10 or 12 generations would not be at all extraordinary; and even, if a person out of the direct line were known to have succeeded, this would be nothing unless it were also known that the deceased Maharajah in that case left a widow or daughter. Moreover, looking to the condition in which this district was for many years prior to our occupation of it (*see* some extracts from a letter of the Collector, 6 Select Reports, p. 134), I think it would be difficult to draw any inference of legal rights from the events of that period. It seems to me, therefore, easy to account for what the witnesses say on this point without referring it to the exclusion of females by family-custom. I think, therefore, that the only reliable evidence of actual exclusion of females, who would otherwise have been entitled to inherit, is in the two modern instances. We are, however, very imperfectly informed of the circumstances under which these two ladies were excluded. In the first instance, the point does not appear to have been much contested. The second instance is so recent that it is still quite open to the widow in that case to assert her rights. Moreover, if we may judge from the petition of Ram Nath which has been already referred to, the widow of Shumboo Nath Singh yielded, not to any assertion of a custom to exclude females, but to the erroneous view which, as we have seen, Ram Nath took of the nature of the right of succession to an impartible Raj, namely, that a joint brother did succeed under the ordinary law in preference to the

widow to property of this description. On the whole, therefore, I cannot infer any family-custom to exclude females from the actual course of descent.

Then comes the question whether there is a local custom that women are excluded. I conclude from the evidence that this is the local custom relied on, though, as I said before, by a very serious error the plaintiff was not called upon to state, before the evidence was gone into, the exact custom on which he relied. Even stated as I now state it, the custom is extremely vague; yet nothing more definite than this has been stated either in evidence or in argument, or even in the judgment of the Court below. I do not know now in what district the custom is said to prevail, or in regard to what kind of succession or what sort of estates. According to English Law, I imagine that such a proceeding as this would not be allowed, but the plaintiff would be obliged to state the district in which the custom was alleged to exist, and to confine his evidence to that district. Take, for instance, a case where a plaintiff alleged the custom of a manor. He would not in general be allowed to show what the custom was in other adjoining manors (Duke of Somerset *versus* Francis, 1 Strange, p. 654; Marquis of Anglesey *versus* Lord Hatherton, 10 Meeson and Welsby, p. 219). But, as pointed out by Lord Mansfield in Furneaux and Hutchins, Cowper, p. 808, he may do so if he states the custom as a *general custom of the whole county* (not "a general custom of the *country*," as this passage is sometimes quoted, a *county* being a well-defined and ancient division of the kingdom). So in the case reported by Lord Hale (Hargrave's Tracts, page 84) the custom is laid as "the custom of *that country*," that is the country on the borders of the river Severn (*see* also the observations of Lord Ellenborough in R. *versus* Ellis, 1 Maule and Selwyn, p. 662). So in India, the custom might be laid as the custom of a zillah or other similar district. This rule appears to me to be not an artificial rule of evidence, but as pointed out by Lord Abinger in the case in 10 Meeson and Welsby, p. 235, to be founded in good sense; because, if there is not some limitation of this kind, it is plain that the custom of one district might be gradually extended indefinitely in all directions. Had the objection been taken, I think that in this case the defendant would have had a right to require that, before any evidence of local custom was gone into, the pl should state the locality to which the tom was alleged to apply.

The evidence produced by the plain support of the local custom is most si The witnesses are none of them asked the general course of inheritance i district, but as to what has happened in specified estates selected, as I imag the plaintiff himself. In three of the were the witnesses able to give any culars of the descent, and it is rath markable that those are the very same to which Ram Nath referred in the p I have already discussed, namely, Pa Koonda, and Gewan. The witnesses gether refrain from stating that any custom exists; and it is left to be in from those three instances of exclusion omission to state the locality over whic alleged custom prevails makes it diffic deal with this evidence. All these places are said to be now in Zillah Ha bagh; but that I imagine to be quite dern political division. This property large tract of the surrounding count originally comprised in Zillah Ra (Regulation III. of 1793, Section 2). sequently, a district was formed und name of jungle mehals, but which inc no part of the Zillah of Ramgurh. formed entirely of portions of the Zil Beerbhoom, Burdwan, and Midnapore (lation XVIII. of 1805). Subsequent Zillah of Ramgurh was abolished, and tion of Ramgurh, including these es great part of the jungle mehals, and was then Midnapore, were made Non- lation districts, and put under the su tendence of an Agent of the Governor eral (Regulation XIII. of 1833), for w Commissioner has been since substitute XX. of 1854). This Commissioner now divided into four Deputy Commis ships—Hazareebagh, Manbhoom, Lohar ga, and Singbhoom. But these divisions I imagine, been made solely with refe to the convenient transaction of busines do not correspond with any ancient divi of the country. For the present pur therefore, the fact which was so much on that these three estates and Ramgurh all in the same district of Hazaree seems to me to be immaterial. It seem me that it would be absurd to find that was a local custom of a modern div like Hazareebagh; but, if not of Hazareeb to what other locality is it suggested

b

g? I should say that to establish a custom to exclude females from inherit- by instances of exclusion, a district be stated in which the custom is now r a long time has been prevalent, and includes the property in dispute. strict might be defined geographically might correspond with some ancient l division. A sufficient number of es of exclusion within that locality en be adduced to establish that the extends to the whole district, and re governs the succession in dispute ears to me, however, that the plaintiff case has entirely failed to bring the s up to this point. Moreover, I the effect of the instances given is weakened by the uncertainty in which eft, whether or no these three estates ld as ghatwalee tenures. If that be d it is a point on which the plaintiff's ses are not agreed, the exclusion of es might possibly be accounted for t resorting to any such inference as eneral exclusion of females in the t.

eover, I think the petition of Ram of 1846 shows clearly that he was as aware of any *local* custom, which exclude females, as of *family*-custom same effect. If there had been such l custom within his knowledge, he certainly have mentioned it; and I that it would be most strange if he t then ascertained all the special rules eritance applicable to the question. r peculiar to his own family or to trict in which he resided.

Deputy Commissioner says, however, judgment (page 23 *ad fin.*) that the rh estate is "a large feudal tenure is not divisible, and that it is a matter oriety that in this part of the country do not inherit such estates, they disqualified by sex from performing t it is incumbent on a Rajah to per- " With regard to the last part of this ment, there is no evidence beyond that o of the defendant's witnesses as to the s of the Rajah. They say that it was mary for the Maharajah at times of hs to sit under the umbrella, and to cutcherry outside; and that this the e could not do. But there is no evi- e that this is an indispensable ceremony; like many other ceremonies usually per- d by men, but not usually performed omen, it might, as far as I am aware, be omitted without any serious consequences arising. I am not sure I understand in what sense the Deputy Commissioner calls the Ramgurh estate a "feudal tenure;" but as I shall show presently the terms on which the Rajah holds his estate are those of an ordinary zemindar. As to the notoriety of the custom, I have some doubts whether this is a matter on which a Judge is entitled to give the results of his own experience. If I am at liberty to consider this statement, I should have no hesitation in saying that it is the strongest part of the plaintiff's case. My chief objection to this statement is the very vague terms in which it is made. I am quite at a loss to know what district the Deputy Commissioner refers to when he speaks of "this part of the country." He may mean his own district of Lohurdugga; but if so, that is nothing to the purpose, for this property is not in Lohurdugga, but in Hazareebagh; and this suit only came to be tried by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohurdugga by an accident. Again, he seems to consider that the custom applies only where the owner of the estates has to perform duties which a woman is by her sex disqualified from performing; but if so, it does not apply to the Ramgurh estates, for the Maharajah has not, and never had, as far as I can discover, any such duties.

It is certainly remarkable that, if there does exist a local custom to exclude females so notorious as stated by the Deputy Commissioner and covering any extensive district, that it is not noticed in any work upon the Hindoo Law of Inheritance, either general or special, as far as I am able to discover. The custom of primogeniture, as it is sometimes called, but as it is more correctly called of impartibility, as observed in this part of India, has been the subject of legislation, and has frequently been noticed by text-writers, and the succession in this very family has upon that point been more than once referred to. Strange, Jaganatha, Shama Churn Sircar, Harington, and Macnaghten, all refer to the custom of primogeniture or impartibility in this locality, but not one of them speaks of the exclusion of females. Had such a custom been notorious as a local custom, I should think it must have been known to Mr. John Harington; and had it been known to him, I think it is hardly possible that he would have omitted to mention it in that part of his Analysis where he discusses the departure from the ordinary law of inheritance which has taken place in these

very districts (Volume I., part I., pages 194 and 199).

I do not, of course, mean it to be inferred that the exclusion of females from succession is unknown in India. Since this case was argued, I have seen a list of 25 questions addressed to certain Rajahs and Chiefs in the Regulation and Tributary Mehals, and the answers thereto illustrating the succession to those guddees. It is clear that in those cases, if those statements are reliable (and I believe them to be so), females are excluded, if not altogether, at least to a very great extent. This district is immediately south, and almost adjoins the district of the Assistant Commissioner of Lohurdugga, and his statement as to the notoriety of the custom may perhaps be thus accounted for. But it is hardly necessary to repeat that until some connection, either geographical or political, is shown to exist between the districts, there is no ground for inferring the custom of one district from its existence in another; and as far as I am aware, the country above designated as "Regulation and Tributary Mehals" is entirely distinct from that in which the Raj of Ramnuggur is situate, and which has been generally known as the Jungle Mehals.

The course of inheritance in the case of impartible property is indeed almost always spoken of as if it went entirely in the male line, but it is clear to me that this is only an adoption of the Hindoo form of expression "*puttro poutradi*," which is the ordinary expression which is used to indicate heritability and which is, I believe, always understood to include females. That by the general Hindoo Law females are not excluded from succession to a Raj is, I believe, unquestioned.

In the much contested case of the Shiva Gunga Raj, a woman eventually succeeded without its ever being suggested that any such general rule of exclusion was known to exist (*see* 9 Moore, pp. 589 and 605).* Jaganatha says (Book 2, Chapter 4, Section 15, page 118): "If the King give the whole "of his dominions to his eldest son qualified "for the empire, although his other sons be "void of offence, the gift is valid." He says nothing about the exclusion of females; and even in this respect, in a curious passage at page 127, he hints a doubt whether some modern princes, who are not independent in the government of their subjects, but merely employed in levying the revenue of the Para-

* 2 W. R., P. C., p. 35.

mount, should be considered as pr
Of course, as against clear and ampl
dence that the local custom existed, c
females had been over and over agai
cluded, these speculations would be no
but I think one is justified in referr
them in the present case.

The direct evidence in support
local custom is at the very best mea
weak, and the most valuable testim
that of the Judge himself speaking fr
own experience.

The materials at my command for
the value of the Deputy Commiss
opinion on this point are not very ampl
the result of such investigations as I
been able to make leads me to dou
existence of such a local custom as is
ed. It leads me *undoubtedly* to the c
sion that there is none so notorious a
general as to be judicially noticed w
proof.

There was indeed one argument
which I was at first inclined to give
siderable weight. It was asked b
counsel for the plaintiff, if women su
in this district to estates of this n
why did not the widow prove ins
of it? And it was pointed out th
case was adjourned expressly in ord
give her time to inquire into the c
of the country, and yet she produc
one to speak to it, whereas, prior t
adjournment, *namely*, on August 18th
of her own witnesses, Banee Jyen
Doss, had stated that in the distr
Hazareebagh no woman had to his k
ledge ever succeeded to the Raj.
exactly occurred with reference to th
journment I have stated above:
certainly does at first sight appear re
able that, if it were possible, the defe
should not have taken this simple cou
disproving the custom; and under
circumstances I should have presumed
search had been made, and that not a
instance of a female succeeding to a R
the immediate neighbourhood of this
perty at any rate, could be produced
should still have wished to know how
persons are possessed of that dignity in
neighbourhood and something of their
tory; but from the evidence I presume
there are other Rajs besides Ramgurh
great distance, and it would have been
cessary, therefore, to consider the effect
this inference from absence of proof on

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of the defendant. But, on considera- I do not think it safe to presume that such a search, as I have indicated, been made, or what would be the of it if it had taken place. We have y careful and accurate report from the y Commissioner of all the proceedings ook place in the Court below, and we ow vague the inquiry was to which ntention of the parties was directed. have already remarked, I do not find in the issues or in any part of these edings any statement on the part of the iff of what local custom he intended ve. As already pointed out, the wit- se called by the plaintiff on the 17th st, and that called on the 27th, made sertion of any general custom—they particularized certain estates in which n had been excluded. To this the dant may have rested content to an- that these instances proved nothing gard to the property in dispute, and one of the plaintiff's own witnesses ted them to be ghatwal estates.

me attempt was made to show that the of the tenure of these estates imposed upon the zemindar which a woman nable to perform. I do not think so. ppears to me to be an ordinary zemin- tenure. The pottah under which tates are held contains a clause which es duties on the zemindar in the nature lice-duties, but it only extends to the tion of travellers and to the arrest of nals. These, I imagine, are the ordi- duties of zemindars. The zemindaree d granted by the Mogul Government am Jeewun, the zemindar of Rajshahye, 735, contains a precisely similar clause hat in the Rajah of Ramgurh's pottah ington's Analysis, Volume III., page and Ram Jeewun was succeeded on his by his widow, the Ranee Bhowanee page 311). There appears to me to be nalogy between these duties and those ghatwal, which are of a much more eral character, and which are usually ected to be personally discharged.

On the whole, although I feel much dif- nce in coming to a different conclusion that of the Deputy Commissioner upon oint of this kind, yet I cannot think any local custom has been established that clearness and definitiveness which ld justify a departure from the ordinary of inheritance. Between impartibility the exclusion of females there is no connection whatever, and it lies on the plaintiff, therefore, to establish the exclusion upon which he relies; and this, I think, he has not done. I am not prepared to say that the investigation has been a satisfactory one; and had the law allowed it, I should, for my own part, have been most anxious to have had a further inquiry. But that course has not been even suggested to us, and I do not think that, on our own motion, we have power to direct it. The case is very much in the same condition as that of Rae Manick Chand *versus* Madho Ram,* which was recently before the Privy Council (3 Bengal Law Reports, P. C.).

If the plaintiff has failed to lay before us the best evidence which might have been got, he alone will suffer. No other title ought in any way to be affected by this decision.

On the evidence before us, I think no custom, either family or local, to exclude females has been established. I think, therefore, that the plaintiff has failed to make out his title; that the decision of the Lower Court ought to be reversed, and his suit dismissed with costs in this Court and in the Court below.

Of course, I express no sort of opinion whatever whether or no the defendant has proved her title to any part of the property.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Notice of enhancement—Clause 1, Section 17, Act X., 1859.

Case No. 1650 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Nuddea, dated the 20th April 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of Koosteah, dated the 15th December 1868.

Koomar Puresh Narain Roy (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Gour Soondur Bhoomick (Defendant), *Respondent.*

* 11 W. R., P. C., p. 42.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Respondent.

A notice to the effect that the ryot's rent was liable to be enhanced on the ground that he was paying at a rate lower than that paid by equal ryots ("toollo projah") is sufficient to show that the enhancement was sought under Clause 1, Section 17, Act X. of 1859.

Ainslie, J.—THE case now before us appears to be exactly similar to the case reported in the 12 Weekly Reporter, page 537.

The notice which was issued to the ryot in this case was to the effect that his rent is liable to be enhanced on the ground that he was paying at a rate lower than that paid by "equal ryots," the Bengalee words used being *toollo projah;* and this seems to be sufficient to show that the enhancement was under the 1st Clause of Section 17, Act X. of 1859. When the case came before the first Court, the defendant does not appear to have taken any objection that the notice was insufficient, and that he did not understand its terms; and from the second issue laid down by that Court, it is perfectly clear that the parties went to trial upon the merits, and not on any technical question.

We think we ought to follow the judgment of this Court in the case above referred to. We, therefore, decree this appeal, and remand the case to the Judge to try it upon the merits. Each party will pay his own costs of this appeal.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Breach of contract—Agent's right of action—Damages.

Case No. 1685 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Nuddea, dated the 27th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 7th September 1869.

Soorendronath Roy (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Rughoobur Dyal Awustee and anot (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Appe

Mr. Sanderson for Respondents.

The question of competency of an agent to not raised, in the initial stage of a suit, cannot be ted to be raised in special appeal.

Ordinarily, on a breach of a contract of sale, the can only recover as against the purchaser the d between the price contracted for and the price the vendor might or could have sold the goo time of the breach.

Paul, J.—IN this case we are of o that the special appeal must fail. are three points made in special a first, that the parties who instituted th as plaintiffs are simply agents in the of the contract, and therefore the suit not lie. Now, it is not a general pr tion of law that an agent who effect contract cannot sue. If he is a bare without having any interest whatev may not be able to sue; but where h an interest, it is quite clear that he ca It is sufficient, however, to say, fo purpose of meeting this objection, th was not taken at the initial state o case; and therefore it would be very un allow it to be taken now in special a Besides, the non-taking of the objecti the Lower Court satisfies us that the p did not, in reality, intend to take it, bu they were fully satisfied that these pla were really entitled to sue.

The next point made is that the pla did not prove that they were ready willing to deliver the indigo-seed contr for. On this point, it is only necessar say that it was never raised in eithe the Courts beyond its being involved i general allegation made by the defe that the plaintiffs had first broken the tract; and that both the Lower Courts found that the plaintiffs have not comm any breach of the contract, and that the defendant who has broken it. finding of the Lower Courts also dispos the objection of the defendant that plaintiffs were not in a position to fulfil terms of the contract.

The sole question, then, that remain whether the damages have been assesse

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Lower Courts on a correct principle. , there can be no doubt of the general iple contended for by Baboo Rash ree Ghose on behalf of the special ap- nt, that, ordinarily speaking, on a breach ontract, the vendor can only recover as t the purchaser the difference between ice contracted for and the price at which ndor might or could have sold the goods time of the breach of the contract. At e when the breach of this contract must pposed to have taken place, the indigo- could not be sold at any price at all, as by both the Lower Courts. This was tract in which no time was fixed for liverry of the indigo-seeds. It would, fore, be implied that the parties should a reasonable time to fulfil the conditions f. There can be no doubt that the o-seeds would not be purchased after the of April, and I think the plaintiffs bound to wait until the sowing season nded, before they could claim any com- tion from the defendant. The plaintiffs very properly waited until the end of t season as found by both the Courts. fore, the damages to which the plaint- e entitled would be the price contract- minus the value of the indigo-seed the sowing season, namely, the price cted for minus nothing at all. I con- therefore, that the decisions of both ower Courts, having reference to the l facts of the case, have proceeded on rect principle in assessing the dam-

h being the case, I think that the de- of the Lower Courts must be affirmed, this appeal dismissed with costs.

slie, J.—I concur.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Enhancement of rent—Alternative pleas.

Case No. 1771 of 1870.

cial Appeal from a decision passed by e Officiating Judicial Commissioner of hota Nagpore, dated the 3rd June 70, reversing a decision of the Assist- Commissioner of Maunbhoom, dated the th September 1869.

Nil Monee Singh Deo Bahadoor (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Anunt Ram Putnaik and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Gopeenath Mookerjee and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Appellant.

Baboo Kalee Kishen Sein for Respondents.

In a suit for arrears of rent at an enhanced rate, where defendants pleaded protection under a mokurruree pottah of old date which had been lost long ago, and also pleaded the presumption arising from uniform payment for more than 20 years:

HELD that the defendants' inability to adduce sufficient proof of that pottah was no reason why they should not be allowed an opportunity to prove the uniform payment pleaded

Glover, J.—THIS is a suit for arrears of rent at an enhanced rate after notice for the year 1274, amounting to Rupees 840-12 on 510 beegahs of land. The defendants pleaded that they were protected by a mokurruree pottah dated in the year 1192, and that they had paid a uniform rate of rent of 72 rupees 6 annas for more than 20 years, and were entitled to the presumption of having paid at that rate from the date of the Permanent Settlement. This latter plea apparently was taken because the pottah is stated to have been destroyed some years before the suit was instituted. At all events, it was not produced.

The first Court decreed for the plaintiff, holding that the defendants had not been able to prove that they held under the mokurruree pottah. On appeal, the Judicial Commissioner remanded the case to try whether or not the defendant had been able to show that he had held the tenure at an unvaried rate of rent for a period of 20 years, and was, therefore, entitled to the presumption of law arising under Act X. of 1859. The first Court, after remand, again decreed the case in favor of the plaintiff, and this decision the Judicial Commissioner has now reversed.

In special appeal, it is contended that, as there was no proof on the part of the defendants that they held under a mokurruree pottah, they are not entitled to any presumption of having held the land from the time of the Decennial Settlement. This objection appears to us untenable. If there had been any finding by the Courts below

that the defendants had come into Court upon a pottah which was found to be spurious, it then would have been a different thing, and the defendants would not have been allowed to shift their case, and endeavour to protect their holding by proving payment of rent at uniform rates for 20 years, after they had failed, under circumstances of fraud, in setting up their substantial plea of a mokurruree pottah; but in this case the only thing that has been found against the defendants is that they had not been able to adduce sufficient proof of that pottah, which, considering that the pottah was dated so far back as the year 1192, and was apparently lost many years ago, was not very wonderful; and we think there is no reason why the defendants should not have been allowed an opportunity to prove, if they could do so, the uniform payment of rent by them for a period of 20 years prior to suit, which would entitle them to the benefit of the presumption of law that they had paid at the same rate from the time of the Permanent Settlement.

Then as to the uniform payment of rent,

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The special appeal is, therefore, dismissed with costs.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Mokurruree pottah—Lessors—Boundaries—Area.

Case No. 1986 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Jessore, dated the 15th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of Khoolnea, dated the 6th December 1869.

Kazee Abdool Mannah and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Buroda Kant Banerjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Debendro Chunder Ghose for Appellants.

Baboos Mohendro Lall Shome and *Mohe Lall Mookerjee* for Respondent.

Parties holding a permanent settlement from Government cannot question the validity of a mokurruree pottah previously granted by themselves while they held the property under a temporary settlement.

In order to ascertain what land is actually leased, it is necessary to look to the boundaries mentioned in the lease, and not to the estimated area.

Ainslie, J.—There is no ground for interfering with the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court in this case.

The first objection taken in special appeal is that the lease set up by the defendant is not valid, inasmuch as the parties by whom it is said to have been granted had no authority to grant a lease in perpetuity. It is true that the lessors of the defendant's vendor had no power to grant a mokurruree pottah at the time when they held the property under a temporary settlement; but if they themselves subsequently obtained a permanent settlement of the property from Government, they cannot now question the validity of the pottah previously granted by them to the defendant's vendor. The pottah would, no doubt, have been void as against Government or any person other than the plaintiffs to whom Government might have assigned its rights, but certainly it must be binding upon the parties who granted it.

The next objection is that, even if the pottah filed by the defendant be accepted as valid, he cannot derive any benefit from it because there is a clause in it which prohibits the defendant's vendor, Nil Monee, from alienating the tenure. In the first place, it does not appear that there is any provision in the lease that in case of alienation the tenure created by it would be forfeited; and secondly, it is shown that the plaintiff has acknowledged the defendant as his tenant under this lease since 1270. Besides this, the plaintiff does not sue for ejectment, but he sues for enhancement of rent of a certain tenure in the occupation of the defendant, and there is no other tenure except the one which was created by the lease propounded by the defendant.

Thirdly, it is contended that the lease was granted for a certain specified area of land, and that, as it turns out on measurement that defendant holds more land than the quantity specified in the lease, the plaintiff is entitled

hance the rent of that excess land. It rs to us that, in order to ascertain what actually leased to the defendant's r, we must look to the boundaries oned in the lease, and not to the esti- area. There was no provision for a ent survey and adjustment of rents ordance therewith. The mere error estimated area cannot operate to take the lessee any of the land that lies the specified boundaries of the leased ty.

e appeal is dismissed with costs.

J.—I concur. I think that the of the Lower Appellate Court has very lly decided the case, and no ground er has been shown to shake the rea- e has assigned.

The 14th April 1871.

Present :

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating f Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, ge.

Consolidation of suits—Appeal.

Case No. 1993 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by the ge of Nuddea, dated the 26th August o, affirming a decision of the Collector hat District, dated the 29th June 1870.

yetoollah and another (Defendants), *Appellants*,

versus

ha Churn Roy and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents*.

Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellants.

No one for the Respondents.

suits having been instituted by a purchaser of erent portions of the same tenure for enhance- of the rent of the respective portions, the first treated them as if they constituted one suit, and one decision in both.

D that, in doing so, the Court acted sensibly and ably, and that there could be no objection to one being filed from what was substantially one

rman, C. J.—THE facts of this case are imple.

It is stated that the plaintiff instituted two suits for enhancement of rent of the same tenure. The circumstances under which that took place are these. He purchased, at several times, at the first sale 7 annas, and at the other 9 annas of the same property. The cases having been set down for hearing, the first Court treated them as if they constituted *one* suit, and gave, very sensibly and reasonably, as it appears to us, one decision in both cases. From that decree, which was substantially one decree in two consolidated suits, the defendant appealed.

If the Lower Court thought fit to treat the two cases as consolidated, and passed one decree in both suits, it seems to us that there can be no possible objection to the defendant's preferring one appeal.

The case must go back to the Lower Appellate Court for re-trial.

Costs will follow the result.

The 14th April 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Splitting of liability—Sharers.

Case No. 1998 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 7th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 14th September 1869.

Indromonee Burmonee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant*,

versus

Suroop Chunder Paul (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Baboo Grish Chunder Mookerjee, for Appellant.

Baboo Sreenath Dass for Respondent.

A tenant's liability to pay his jumma to the party entitled cannot be split up without his consent, so as to make him liable to pay fractional portions of rent to different sharers in the zemindary.

Norman, C. J.—THE plaintiff sues for arrears of rent for the years from 1273 to 1275, to which he alleges himself to be entitled as being a shareholder in certain land held by the defendants comprised in two jummas, one of Rupees 106 and the other of Rupees 34. The plaintiff says that some time since he acquired by purchase first 1 anna 4 gundas of the lands comprised in those jummas, and subsequently additional fractional shares of this land; and that, by these purchases, and by taking in farm 2 annas and 8 gundas, he became possessed in all of 6 annas 16 gundas of the property. Being thus purchaser and ijaradar, he sues the defendants, and, amongst others, the special appellant before us, Indromonee Burmonee, for the rents of 6 annas, after deducting 16 gundas, which, he says, has been taken possession of by another party.

The Lower Courts made a decree in favor of the plaintiff, from which decree the defendant, Indromonee Burmonee, appeals; and she points out through her vakeel that there is no evidence that she ever assented to any division of her liability, or agreed to pay the rents of the 6 annas 16 gundas, or of any other fractional share, to the plaintiff.

We think that the objection of Indromonee Burmonee is well-founded; that the liability of herself and co-sharers was to pay the entire jumma of Rupees 106 and Rupees 34 to the persons to whom they were liable to pay the same; and that the plaintiff, by purchasing fractional shares of the property comprised within the jummas, could not split up without her consent her entire liability, and make her liable to pay fractional shares of that rent to the several persons alleging themselves to hold shares in the zemindary whose interests and rights she would have no means of ascertaining with accuracy.

The suit, therefore, as regards the special appellant, Indromonee Burmonee, must be dismissed with costs in all the Courts. The other defendants not having appealed, the decree will stand as against them.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwark Mitter, *Judges.*

Bond—Interest.

Case No. 2066 of 187-.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Subordinate Judge of Purneah, the 20th June 1870, modifying a de of the Officiating Sudder Moonsi that District, dated the 14th April 187

Shaikh Reasut Hossein (one of the De ants), *Appellant,*

versus

Jusmunt Roy (Plaintiff), *Respondent*

Baboos Bama Churn Banerjee and *T Nath Dutt* for Appellant.

Baboos Anund Chunder Ghossal and *nash Chunder Banerjee* for Respon

Where a party borrowing money entered into a stipulating to pay 24 rupees per cent. per an interest until the whole debt, principal and in was paid off, and, if the whole was not paid with time mentioned that the bond should be enforc registered deed:

HELD that the rate of interest was not a que discretion, but must be paid at the rate stipulate

Bayley, J.—THIS special appeal is o point of interest only. The question is ther between the due date of payment that of suit the Lower Appellate Cou erred in awarding interest at Rupees 2 cent. as was stipulated in the bond.

We have heard the bond read, and somewhat peculiar in its terms, that is there can be no doubt that what the p contracted for was that Rupees 24 per per annum should be paid as interest the whole debt, principal and interest, be paid off; and if the whole was not within the time mentioned, the bond s be enforced as a registered deed.

We have been referred to a decisio ported at page 16, Volume VIII., W Reporter; but there is nothing whatev that case showing the stipulations, while they are shown in the most clear and di terms. On the contrary, in that case a deal turned upon the circumstance th

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d itself was silent on the point, and it upon that assumption that the question mined by the Judges in that case arose. quite clear that the Lower Appellate t is right in holding that the party is d to pay interest at the rate stipulated e bond. It is not a question of discre- It is only giving effect to the terms e bond under Act XXVIII. of 1858.

e special appeal is dismissed with

The 14th December 1870.

Present:

e Hon'ble E. Jackson and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

to recover money—Small Cause Court—tion 27, Act XXIII. of 1861—Section 15, rter Act—Jurisdiction—Non-resident de-dants.

Case No. 249 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Additional Judge of Hooghly, dated 6th December 1869, reversing a de-ion of the Moonsiff of Serampore, dated 24th June 1869.

arinee Churn Mookerjee and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants.*

versus

no Chunder Roy and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

oos *Kishen Succa Mookerjee* and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Appellants.

oos *Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty* and *darnath Chatterjee* for Respondents.

it for the recovery of a sum of money below 500 alleged to have been improperly taken away from lector, who held it in deposit on account of cer-ds taken for public purposes, was held to be a case cognizable by the Small Cause Court, in which special appeal was barred by Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861.

Such a case having been tried by the Moonsiff of a station where there was a Small Cause Court, and heard in appeal by the District Judge, the High Court, under the powers described in Section 15 of the Charter Act, set aside the decisions of both the Lower Courts as void for want of jurisdiction.

Where some of the defendants in such a suit are living within the jurisdiction of a Court of Small Causes, that fact is sufficient to bring the case within the category of suits cognizable by such Court.

Mitter, J.—This suit was instituted in the Court of the Moonsiff of Serampore, for the recovery of a certain sum of money alleged to have been improperly taken away by the defendants from the Collector of Hooghly, who held that money in deposit on account of certain lands taken by Government for public purposes. The Moonsiff gave a decree to the plaintiff, but this decree has been reversed by the Judge on appeal for the reasons set forth in his decision.

The defendants, who are now special respondents before us, object that there is no special appeal in this case, inasmuch as it is a case for a sum of money below 500 rupees.

I am of opinion that this objection is sound. The suit was clearly a suit cognizable by the Small Cause Court, and, as the amount involved is below 500 rupees, no special appeal can lie to this Court under the express provisions of Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861.

But I am further of opinion that there has been a failure in the investigation of this case by the Lower Appellate Court. That Court seems to have paid no attention to the chittahs prepared by the resumption-authorities on the former occasion. Neither the taedad nor the resumption-decree gives the boundaries it is true; but this defect is not to be found in the chittahs. The boundaries given in this last document bear a very close resemblance to the boundaries of the disputed lands as they are described in the plaint; and it seems that the question of identity might have been placed beyond all dispute by an actual testing of the chittahs in the *locus in quo.* Besides, the Judge seems to have misunderstood the purport of the evidence given by the plaintiff's witnesses.

Those witnesses have not said that the plaintiff was in possession for 6 or 7 years only.

What, then, is the proper order which we ought to pass in this case? I am of opinion that the decision of both the Lower Courts ought to be set aside for want of jurisdiction, under the powers vested in this Court by the 15th Section of the Charter Act. If this suit was really cognizable by the Court of Small Causes, neither the Moonsiff of Serampore nor the Judge had any jurisdiction over it, inasmuch as there is a Small Cause Court at Serampore. It has been urged that one of the parties to this suit, namely, Mr. Quentin, was living in Chinsurah at the time of its institution, and that the Small Cause Court of Serampore had, therefore, no jurisdiction over it. I am of opinion that this objection is not valid. Mr. Quentin has been made a defendant as the manager of an estate belonging to a minor; and it is, therefore, doubtful whether Mr. Quentin or the minor is to be considered as the real defendant. But be this as it may, the suit would still be cognizable by the Small Cause Court of Serampore, even if we treat Mr. Quentin as the real defendant. The other defendants were living within the local limits of the jurisdiction assigned to that Court, and this fact would be sufficient to bring the suit within the category of "suits cognizable by the Small Cause Court," as described in Section 6. of Act XI. of 1865. Act XI. shows that the Courts of Small Causes are competent "to try all such suits as those described in 6," and Section 12 gives exclusive jurisdiction to those Courts to try those suits. This point has been already decided by a Division Bench of this Court in the case of Khoda Buksh Mistree, reported in the 9th Number of the 14th Volume of the Weekly Reporter, page 156.

For the above reasons, I would set aside the decisions of both the Lower Courts as void for want of jurisdiction. The plaintiff ought to pay the costs of the defendant.

Jackson, J.—I concur. I think that the plaintiff should bear the costs of this litigation so far as he has brought his suit in the wrong Court, and he asks us to quash all the proceedings to enable him to bring his claim in the right Court, and because the whole litigation has been caused by his own neglect to look after his own interests before the Collector.

The 1st March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. C
Judges.

Minor's estate—Manager—Section 7, A of 1858.

Case No. 461 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order by the Judge of Midnapore, da 2nd December 1870.

Kalee Pershad Singh, *Appellant*

versus

Poorno Debia (Petitioner), *Respond*

Baboos Ashootosh Dhur and *Taruck Sein* for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Rom Chunder Mitter* for Respondent.

Under Section 7, Act XL. of 1858, a manager ed to the estate of a minor cannot in any rid of or resign that trust without the perm the Court, and without duly accounting to his for all moneys received and disbursed by him.

Kemp, J.—The appellant before u uncle of the respondent, who has been on the evidence by the Judge to be a The Judge also found on the evidenc the respondent will not be of age September 1871. The Judge's deci this part of the case is a very carefu He has thoroughly sifted the evidence, may say that no attempt has been m the pleader for the appellant to sho the Judge has come to a wrong conc on this part of the case. The Judge that the appellant has been guilty of a breach of trust in the management o estate, inasmuch as, admitting that his ment is correct, namely, that the min of age when he alleges that he made the accounts of the estate to him, he only have just arrived at majority; a der such circumstances, he was bou exercise every precaution, and to act in good faith towards his ward. The J therefore, finding that the conduct o appellant had been such as to rend necessary to remove him from his po as manager of the estate of the minor, directed his removal, and his also c upon him to account for all sums rec and disbursed by him during the ti was in charge of the estate, within

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s from the date of the order; the nt to be rendered to be supported by ers. The ryots were directed by pro-tion not to pay their rents to the ap-t, and the minor was directed to bring d deliver into Court all the accounts apers in his hands which he may have ed from his late guardian. We are of n in this case that the evidence which een adduced by the appellant to prove livery of accounts to the minor is not ce upon which the Court can rely. g the appellant's case, it is clear from own admission that the respondent only have been some two or three s more than 18 years old when the d delivery of accounts was made. Now, was the uncle of the minor, and was d in a fiduciary position towards the , the Court is entitled to expect *uberri-ds* from a person in such a position.

this case, we find, on the examination appellant himself, that at the time when eges that he made over the accounts estate to his late ward, he took no tion whatever to have that ward dvised as to what he was doing; no pt was made to explain the accounts n; nobody was present on his behalf dvise him. The alleged transaction place in the presence of two ryots and me connection of the minor who ad-dly could neither read nor write.

w, although the appellant is not bound Section 16 to deliver accounts into periodically, he not having been ap-d under Section 10 of the Act, there e no doubt that he was bound to retain possession, if he delivered over as tes all the accounts to the minor on rival at majority, copies of those ac-s to enable him to satisfy any demand his late ward or any other party make against him. Under Section 7 Act, if a manager be appointed, and eks to denude himself of the trust ed upon him, he cannot in any way id of or resign that trust without the ssion of the Court, and without duly nting to his successor for all moneys ved and disbursed by him. In this we find that the appellant himself s that he was in charge of the minor's from the year 1268 to the year 1276, hat a sum of 80,000 rupees appeared her side of the account; and yet he ask the Court to believe that, deal-ith a boy who, on his own admission, had only just arrived at majority, and who is, as found by the Judge, of very weak intellect, he made over to that boy accounts covering transactions amounting to over 80,000 rupees, and extending over a period of 8 years, without retaining in his hands a single copy or voucher which would enable him to meet any demands that might afterwards be made upon him by the respondent. We think, considering the whole case, and looking to the evidence adduced, that the appellant has been very properly dismissed from his office, and that the Judge has passed a very proper order in directing that he should be compelled to render an account of his stewardship. Of course, it is not for us to say at this stage of the case what course ought to be pursued in carrying out that order. Section 22 provides for that. The Judge, in the exercise of the discretion, may impose upon the appellant a fine not exceeding 500 rupees, and may also commit the recusant guardian to close custody until he shall consent to deliver his accounts.

We dismiss the appeal with costs.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Possessory suit—Evidence.

Case No. 2278 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Additional Judge of Chittagong, dated the 8th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 10th September 1870.

Lukhee Chunder Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ramdhun Shaha and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose for Appellant.

Baboo Aukhil Chunder Sein for Respondents.

In a suit to recover possession of certain land on the allegation that it was part of plaintiff's jote jumma, which had been previously held by his father and mother, plaintiff's inability to substantiate an alleged

The first Court dismissed the plaintiff's suit, because there was no proof of user.

On appeal the, Judge remanded the case for a local inquiry, and to ascertain whether the right sued for had been exercised at any time within 12 years before suit. The first Court held a local inquiry by an Ameen, and again dismissed the suit for very much the same reasons as it had been dismissed before, and the Judge upheld that decision.

The only point pressed upon us in special appeal is that the real issue in the case has not been determined; that, on the remand, the issue fixed was whether there had been any user of the easement on the part of the plaintiff for 12 years preceding the suit, and that the case has been decided against him on the plaintiff failing to prove that he had had a *continuous* user of the water-course. If this issue, as stated by the special appellant, was the one which was really fixed on remand, all I can say is that it was not the proper issue to have been tried. A person claiming a right of easement over another person's property is bound to prove that he has had the continuous enjoyment of that easement without interruption, and not merely by the permission of the opposite party, but as of right. In this case, it has been found as a fact on the evidence that the plaintiff has not been able to prove any such continuous user. In fact, from his own statement of the case, it is very clear that for six years, at all events, he has had no enjoyment whatever of the alleged right. The Lower Courts were, therefore, right in dismissing the suit, and the special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

Kemp, J.—I concur in this judgment. It appears that the plaintiff admittedly for six years had no right of user in the channel in question. If the interruption had been a wrongful one, the plaintiff's right of user would not have been destroyed, if he had taken steps at the time of that wrongful interruption to assert his right; but when we have him for six years taking no steps whatever, we may safely presume that, if he had any right of easement at any time over the defendant's land, he acquiesced in that long interruption and in the consequent loss of any right that he may have possessed.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 15th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Ju*

Small Cause Courts—Application under S 21, Act XI., 1865—Default.

Reference to the High Court by the Ju the Small Cause Court at Jessore, dat 27th January 1871.

Gopal Chunder Roy, *Plaintiff*

versus

Arman Shaikh, *Defendant.*

Case.—An application having been made to a Cause Court Judge to set aside an *ex-parte* decr Judge found from the record that the defendan been personally served with summons. He a ingly requested the pleader to tell his client present 3 days after to be examined. As neither cant nor his pleader was present on that date, the rejected the application without issuing notice opposite party. A second application was that under Section 21, Act XI. of 1865.

HELD that the communication to the pleader informal proceeding; and as applicant had not been moned in due form, his application should not have rejected in his absence, and the Judge was bo hear the second application.

Case.—THIS is a second application Section 21 of Act XI. of 1865 to set the decree passed *ex parte* against the de ant, and the question arises whether it to be admitted.

The first application to set aside th cree was made on the 16th instant, and verified; but as I found, on looking at th cord of the case, that the defendant had personally served with summons, I requ the pleader to tell his client to be pres Court on the 19th instant to be exa touching the matters referred to therein as neither he nor his pleader was prese that date, I did not cause notice to be is calling on the opposite party to show c and rejected the application.

It is now urged that the second applic ought to be admitted under the *ruling* of Full Bench in Nussurooddeen Khan Indur Narain Chowdhry, Weekly Repo Civil Rulings, page 93, Volume V.: but it pears to me that that ruling will not ap

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e present is not an application for a *new* but an application to *set aside an ex-parte ment*, and it has been held in a recent Dhunnoo Chowdhry *versus* Bukshun nother, Weekly Reporter, Civil Rulings, 266, Volume XII., that the case of a is very different from that of an ap- on for new trial under Section 21 of I. of 1865.

ay be urged that, as the first applica- as verified, I ought to have issued a to the opposite party to show cause e *ex-parte* judgment should not be set without calling on the applicant to r and satisfy the Court that summons er served on him; but I do not think can be urged with any show of reason, Section 38 of Act XXIII. of 1861 the dure prescribed by Act VIII. of 1859 be followed, as far as it can be, in all ellaneous cases and proceedings institut- er the passing of the Act; and I appre- that every Court is bound to satisfy it- n the mode it thinks proper of the of the statement set forth in an ap- on or petition. Besides, it appears to at an application to set aside an *ex-parte* is not an application that requires to ified either by the Code of Civil Proce- Act XI. of 1865, or any other law. The applications besides plaints, written ents, and petitions to sue *in formâ oris*, are applications for discharge from or confinement, made either under Sec- 73 or 280 of the Code.

the above reasons, I think the second ation should not be admitted; but as my is not wholly free from doubt, I shall ispose of the application till receipt of inion of the High Court on the question er the application ought to be admitted ected.

dgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

rman, C. J.—I do not understand the eeding to which the Judge of the Small Court adverts. By Section 21, in cases crees passed *ex parte* within 30 days the execution of process, the party may notice of his intention *to apply to the t* at its next sitting for an order to set the decree.

the application being made at that —which the Act contemplates as an ap- ion to be made in the presence of the de- holder—if it be proved that the summons was not duly served, or that the defendant was prevented from appearing, the Court may set aside the decree.

I do not see how the case was before the Judge on the 19th, or under what authority he could reject an application which was not made to him.

The communication to the pleader may have resulted in the debtor's making his appearance, but it was an informal proceeding. The Judge ought not to have proceeded in the absence of the party and his vakeel. The application, which the party against whom the decree passed had a right to make under Section 21, appears to me not to have been disposed of by the order on the 19th. I think, therefore, that the Judge was bound to hear the second application if it was within time.

Loch, J.—It appears to me that the verified petition presented on the 16th was the application for a new trial which the applicant was required to make, under the provisions of Section 21, Act XI. of 1865, for a new trial. The Judge of the Small Cause Court, after examining the record, which for some cause he was not able to take up on the day when the petition was presented, thought it necessary, before serving notice on the opposite party to show cause, to examine the applicant; and as he was not in attendance, he told his vakeel to produce him on the 19th; but as neither did attend on that date, he rejected the application. I agree with the Chief Justice in thinking that this proceeding was informal. If the Judge required the attendance of the applicant, he should have summoned him in due form; but having failed to do so, he should not have rejected the application in his absence. The present application should be heard.

The 17th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Mahomedan Law—Legitimacy—Presumption —Dowry.

Case No. 185 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 31st May 1870.

Bibee Wuheedun (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Syud Wusee Hossein and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Respondents.

According to Mahomedan Law, the acknowledgment of a father renders a son or daughter a legitimate child and an heir, unless it is impossible for the son or daughter to be so; and the acknowledgment need not be of such a character as to be evidence of marriage.

In a suit against a Mahomedan widow for property in which she sets up a claim to have a lien on account of her unsatisfied dower, she is bound to prove the existence and amount of her dower in a clear and satisfactory manner.

Paul, J.—In this case two of the plaintiffs, Syud Wusee Hossein and Syud Nubbee Hossein, alleging themselves to be the sons of one Tusuddook Hossein together with other persons who are the heirs of the person who purchased a portion of their claim, sued the defendant, Bibee Wuheedun, who is admittedly the widow of the deceased Tusuddook Hossein and an infant son, for possession of a 9 annas and 4 pies share out of the entire 16 annas of the estate of Tusuddook Hossein, otherwise called Meer Suleem.

It appears that Tusuddook Hossein died on the 27th February 1863. Upon the application for a certificate after his death by Bibee Wuheedun, some opposition was entered on behalf of the grandmother of the present plaintiffs. That opposition seems to have failed, and no proceedings appear to have been taken from that time until the time of the institution of this suit, namely, the 1st September 1869.

This lapse of time, had the case of the plaintiffs been at all doubtful, would have tended to confirm any suspicions which might have arisen as to its truth, and would thus have rendered the plaintiffs' suit extremely hazardous; but it appears to us that this lapse of time has no material bearing on this case, and may be sufficiently accounted for on the ground that these two plaintiffs, being penniless, were unable to sue for their share of the estate until they were taken by the hand by some such person as Booniyad Ali, by whose assistance they were enabled to bring this suit.

The defendant, Bibee Wuheedun, denies that those two plaintiffs were the sons of Syud Tusuddook Hossein, or that they were acknowledged by him as his sons. She alleges in the 3rd paragraph of her written statement that a woman by the name of Shobratun came to Mozufferpore, and was employed by the mother of Tusuddook Hossein, and afterwards by Tusuddook Hossein himself, as a cook; that Shobratun was a common prostitute, and that she was in the habit of going out of the house (meaning the house of Tusuddook Hossein) and coming back when she liked; that two children were born to her from illicit intercourse, and that the woman having died shortly after, leaving behind her two children, the master of the house maintained them out of charitable motives, but that, notwithstanding this, they were not his sons. It appears to us that the 3rd paragraph of the written statement contains a statement of circumstances from which it may be reasonably inferred that the two abovenamed plaintiffs were, in reality, the children of Tusuddook Hossein by Shobratun. If this inference cannot be fairly drawn from the facts stated in the 3rd paragraph of the written statement, we consider we are entitled, at all events, to deduce from those facts the following inferences: that Tusuddook Hossein, if he were so minded, had many opportunities of sexual intercourse with Shobratun, who lived in his house, and that the two children who were born in the house might have been the children of Tusuddook Hossein. These inferences clearly give an air of probability to the case made out by the plaintiffs' witnesses.

Now, the first point in issue in this case is whether the two first-named plaintiffs were the legitimate sons of Tusuddook Hossein and entitled to inherit the share of the estate of Tusuddook Hossein claimed in the plaint. On this point, considerable evidence has been offered by the plaintiffs; and Babu Bhooputtee Roy, who is a Judge of great experience and intelligence, considers the evidence which has been adduced to establish the parentage of the first two plaintiffs has been given by highly respectable zemindars and relatives of Tusuddook Hossein whom he thoroughly believes, and he holds the first point in issue, that the two first plaintiffs were the legitimate sons of Tusuddook Hossein, fully and satisfactorily proved. Without desiring to say that an Appellate Court must in every case place implicit confidence in the estimate which a Judge of a subordinate Court may form of the evidence on which he bases his judgment, we are of opinion in this case, we are entitled to say, that this Court is fully justified in placing the greatest possible reliance upon the careful consideration which has been accorded to the evidence and the proper finding which has been come to by the Lower Court. It has been well observed by the Subordinate Judge that "the evidence of these respectable

es men of independence and old friends near relatives of the deceased, appears e to be fully reliable, and their evi- e is clear enough to prove the legiti- of plaintiffs' birth."

, the evidence adduced by the plaintiffs n read and commented upon before us e considerable length. Beyond some criticisms and the exposition of certain improbabilities and certain petty inac- es in the evidence of the witnesses by the plaintiffs, we have heard nothing er calculated to impress us with the cy of the position taken up by the nts that we ought to discredit the testi- of the plaintiffs' witnesses.

have already in the course of the argu- discussed at length the reasons which e us to believe the evidence adduced by laintiffs. It is, therefore, unnecessary e them again at any great length, but y say broadly what the evidence of the ffs' witnesses establishes. The evidence plaintiffs' witnesses establishes in the lace that Tusuddook Hossein, whilst d a family dwelling-house at Rajasan, o carry on the business of a karpurdaz hampoora, where he ordinarily resided he was engaged in his business; and within half a mile of Burhampoora pore, he had another house where Shob- used to live, and where, in all proba- these two boys were born; and that te of things continued to exist for a r of years, until, in fact, the death of dook Hossein.

eems to us reasonable to conclude from cts thus satisfactorily established that two boys were born of Shobratun from dook Hossein, and that the wretched happy attempt to make out that Shob- was a common prostitute has wholly We should be sorry to say that in country where a false case has been pted to be set up by a defendant, it arily tends to throw discredit on the f the defendant's case; still, when we hat such an utterly false allegation has made the basis of the defence, and is d to pervade the whole of the case set y the defendant, it seems to us that the y of such an important statement throws siderable amount of suspicion on the and integrity of the case sought to be lished.

ving arrived at the conclusion that Shob- was not a prostitute, that she lived in house of a respectable person, and that she gave birth to these children there, it may be fairly presumed that they were the legitimate offspring of Tusuddook Hossein. The conclusion last stated as a matter of a fair presumption assumes the form of certainty when we consider what is further established by the evidence of the plaintiffs' witnesses, namely, that Tusuddook Hossein acknowledged to his friends and relatives that these children were his, and treated them in all respects as his own sons.

The plaintiffs' case, therefore, as launched by them in substance, shows that Shobratun lived in a house belonging to Tusuddook; that Tusuddook had intercourse with Shobratun; that the two children were born to her by Tusuddook; and that Tusuddook took them about with him to the house of his friends and relatives, and before them acknowledged these children to be his sons. Are not these facts sufficient, according to Mahomedan Law, to make out the claim of the plaintiffs? It seems to us that there is no resisting the conclusion that they are amply sufficient for that purpose.

But the claim of the plaintiffs is attempted to be resisted first by Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee in the arguments addressed to us, on the main ground that the evidence of the plaintiffs' witnesses is untrue, or, at all events, unsatisfactory; and we have already observed that the lengthened arguments so put forward have not produced the slightest impression on our minds as to the untrustworthiness of the evidence of the plaintiffs' witnesses. As this case is one of importance, it is necessary shortly to consider the evidence the truth of which has been so hotly contested.

The first witness is a respectable zemindar, and not connected with either party. He speaks to the fact of constantly visiting Tusuddook Hossein and Tusuddook Hossein visiting him: of seeing these children often with the father, and learning from his lips that they were his children.

Some other witnesses, who are relatives of the parties, speak to the same effect. In particular, one Meer Yusoof Ali, who is a cousin of Mussamut Wuheedun, speaking from his own knowledge, says that these two boys were the sons of Tusuddook Hossein *alias* Meer Suleem; that, seeing that the children of his first wife did not survive, he advised Tusuddook to marry a second time; that, although he was not present at the marriage, he speaks to the fact of this second wife giving birth to the plaintiffs. Being a relation of the

defendant, his interest would be all the other way; but no reason has been suggested to lead us to suppose that this man is stating anything but the truth.

Then there are other witnesses who are not relatives of either party. One is Meer Koorban Ali, who is a vakeel. We must take it that he is an honest witness, as his evidence has not in any way been impugned by cross-examination. He swears to the fact of these two boys having accompanied Meer Suleem on the occasion of visits made to him by Meer Suleem when invited; and he also speaks to their being the children of Tusuddook Hossein. We cannot have better evidence of Tusuddook Hossein treating these children as his sons, than his taking them about with him to his friends and relatives, and calling them his sons.

Turning to the evidence for the defence, we find that one of their witnesses, Munraj, swears that Meer Suleem used to treat the plaintiffs as his sons. All that the other witnesses, whom the defendants have called, say is that they do not know whether they are the sons of Meer Suleem or not.

There seems, therefore, to be no doubt that the plaintiffs were the children of Tusuddook Hossein, and this conclusion is borne out by the circumstances to which we have already adverted. But, in point of fact, it appears to us that the mere acknowledgment by the plaintiffs is quite enough. It is contended, however, by Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose (who followed Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee), contrary to the current of authorities on the subject, that mere acknowledgment is not enough.

Although we do, to a great extent, respect the arguments of pleaders, we are not bound even to tolerate them when urged in direct contravention of the spirit of the Mahomedan Law, and in the teeth of the current of authorities on the subject of the sufficiency of an acknowledgment by the father to be found in Moore's Indian Appeals and in the Weekly Reporter. We will turn first to a decision of the late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes Peacock, and Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson, reported in 5 Weekly Reporter, page 135, in which it was held that the acknowledgment of a father renders a son or daughter a legitimate child and an heir, unless it is impossible for the son or daughter to be so, and this is also borne out from certain passages cited in Baillie's Digest of Mahomedan Law.

Here there was a clear acknowledg by Tusuddook Hossein that these ch were his. Is there anything in the ci stances to show that it was impossib the plaintiffs to be his children. The ge circumstances of this case altogether re the bar of impossibility. The very stat which the defendant makes lends an probability to the assertion that they his children, and coupling that wi following facts—that the first wife had ren who died, that Tusuddook Hossein been advised by his relatives to marr other wife, and that Shobratun lived Tusuddook Hossein, and had children living in his house—it is certain that first plaintiffs must have been his childr

But it is argued contrary to the a ities, as before observed, that an acknow ment by a father is not enough, unless of such a character that it is evide marriage. We are not aware that the trines of the Mahomedan Law compel go so far as that. There is an authori the 11 Weekly Reporter, page 426, expressly rules as follows: "Accordi Mahomedan Law, a child born out of we if acknowledged, acquires the status of timacy." The decision of Mr. Justice K which contains the above passage, was firmed on appeal before three Judge Weekly Reporter, p. 497. The idea of mation according to Mahomedan Law is supported by the observations of the Council in 8 Moore's Appeals, page 15

Assuming, however, that the circumst proved should be of such a character lead to a fair conclusion that a marriag take place between the parties for purpose of making the admitted off legitimate, we find that in this case exists a fair and reasonable presumption marriage having taken place, although th no direct evidence. We proceed now to sider how the presumption of a mar having taken place is made out. A very reason existed why Tusuddook Hossein contract a second marriage. The witn say, and Meer Yusoof Ali in particular that Tusuddook Hossein had lost all children of his first wife. It was, there necessary that he should, in order to progeny, get married a second time. But question is, did his choice fall upon Sho tun? It is said that Sobratun was a wo of a very low stamp, and that it was not likely that the choice would fall upon But it is in evidence that she lived in house of this man at Islampore, and it is

* 3 W. R., P. C., p. 37.

y, that having a wife of respectability at an, and having had to settle or pay a sum of money as her dower, he would ct a second marriage of a similar char-, and so have to settle or pay another sum as dower, and treat his second wife e same consideration and provide her the same comforts as his first wife. the circumstances, it may well be that, the deceased made up his mind to take nd wife, he resolved that he should one from an inferior class.

t it is further said that, if she had been ife of Tusuddook Hossein, she would ve been treated as a menial servant house at Islampore where she resided. ever may have been the original char- in which she entered that house, we ot think it likely, after the woman had two children, she would any longer be d as a menial servant. Even if we e that she was at one time a menial t, considering the probabilities we adverted to in conjunction with the fol- g facts, *i. e.*, that Shobratun continued ide in the house after she had given to these children, and that the cohabita- of the parties lasted till the death of atun, we think we shall be within the ple of the decision of the Privy Council found in 8 Moore's Indian Appeals, hold that a fair and necessary presump- rises that the parties went through the of marriage in order to avoid the sin nication. Under all systems of law, esumption is in favor of morality, and ularly in the Mahomedan Law is the mption strong in favor of morality and st immorality; and when, as in this case, e circumstances make in favor of the mption that a marriage was celebrated, ve no hesitation whatever in believing ome kind of ceremony was gone through.

e will now advert to the arguments which been urged against the supposition a marriage had taken place. In the place, it is said that Shobratun did not in the family dwelling-house of Tusud- Hossein at Rajasan, and it is argued that circumstance tends to show that the iage did not take place. But it appears that that proves nothing of the sort, be- it is not likely that Tusuddook Hossein, following the ordinary dictates of pru- e, would venture to bring into the family ing-house such a woman as his second , and so introduce an element of discord.

hen it is said that the relatives of Tusud- Hossein did not visit his second wife. But we do not see that the relatives were called upon to come a long way from the family dwelling-house at Rajasan in order to visit this woman. If the reason which would account for the senior wife not living with the junior wife is of any force, the same reason would operate in keeping the relatives apart.

Then it is said that, at the time of various ceremonials, visitors were not invited to attend. But relatives are not invited on the occasion of every ceremony. It is only on important occasions that relatives are invited. Now, we do not see what important occasions could have well transpired during the infancy of these two boys, comparatively humbly born.

There is no doubt that Tusuddook Hossein acknowledged these boys as his sons, and we cannot understand why the frequent and public acknowledgment of the two first plaintiffs as his sons should have been made by Tusuddook Hossein, unless the fact was that he was their father, and he recognized them as his legitimate progeny. If these boys were not his sons, it must be taken that Tusuddook desired to deceive his friends and relatives by declaring them to be his sons without any sufficient reason for so doing. Such a conclusion would be manifestly absurd.

It appears to us, therefore, that no valid ground whatever has been shown for impugning the reasons which the Subordinate Judge has assigned for holding that the plaintiffs have proved themselves to be the sons of Tusuddook Hossein.

Then as to the 2 annas of mouzah Mawel, it is clear that the title to this property stands in the name of the defendant, Mussamut Wuheedun, and the plaintiffs have failed to prove that these two annas belonged to their father. Consequently, the decision of the Lower Court to the effect that Tusuddook Hossein had the beneficial interest in this property does not appear to be borne out by the evidence, and must, therefore, be reversed.

It is also clear that, as to items Nos. 25, 26, and 27, that they are decrees against certain debtors which have not been yet realized. The plaintiffs, therefore, can only obtain a declaration that they are entitled to their shares in those decrees.

As to the dower, the matters stand thus. An issue was raised as to whether mouzah Mawel and the money in deposit in Chummun Lall's kotee were given to Mussamut

Wuheedun in lieu of her *den mohur*. We take it that by that issue it was intended to put the defendant to proof of her dower, its amount, and of the fact alleged that certain property was given in lieu of dower. It is argued, however, that the form of the issue assumes the dower to have existed. We do not agree with that contention, because, if that were so, there would have existed something on the record to show that the dower had been admitted. The Judge did not so understand the issue he had raised, for he holds that the defendant had adduced no evidence to prove her claim to dower or what the estate of Meer Suleem had to pay. It is contrary to all experience to believe that the plaintiffs would have admitted the dower simply on the allegations made by the defendant, there having been nothing set up to indicate that the dower which was alleged to have been made many years ago had remained unsatisfied. For these reasons, we think the dower was not admitted. It was the duty of the defendant, as she relied upon her dower, to have proved its existence and amount in a clear and satisfactory manner. This she has not chosen to do. She has merely alleged her lien for dower in respect of two items of property, namely, the 9,871 rupees deposited in Chummun Lall's kotee and a 6-annas share of mouzah Mawel. On this point the Subordinate Judge disbelieves the witnesses, and we think he is right in doing so, because beyond the evidence of one or two common witnesses there is no proper reliable evidence to prove that these two items of property had been given in lieu of the dower. If the money in Chummun's kotee had been assigned over to Mussamut Wuheedun, why was not some person in Chummun Lall's kotee called to establish this fact? We think the evidence on this point is of the most meagre and unsatisfactory character; and it appears to us there is no reason for concluding that there had not been a *bonâ-fide* sale of the 6 annas of the property. That being so, we do not think it advisable to allow the parties at this stage of the proceedings to produce fresh evidence, in order to show that the dower existed, and has not been satisfied otherwise than by the assignment of the property mentioned, which has not been proved. If the defendant had chosen, she might and ought to have proved these matters at an earlier stage of this suit. We pass no opinion as to whether the dower has been satisfied or not. We have only to remark that, supposing the dower not to have been satisfied by the deceased, it must be remembered that the widow claiming the dower has been many years in possession of the estates left by deceased, and that she has either paid h the whole or a substantial portion of claim. At all events, she will probabl entitled to set off as against the w which the plaintiffs will endeavour unde decree to obtain from her any portion th which may have been appropriated to her dower.

On the whole, then, the decision o Lower Court will be affirmed with all the decree being modified only with reg the 2 annas of mouzah Mawel. The de ant Mussamut Wuheedun will be allow remain in possession of that share of th perty. The order relating to the three de numbered 25, 26, and 27 in the plain also be amended, it being declared tha plaintiffs are only entitled to share in decrees.

The 17th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G *Judges.*

Res adjudicata—Sections 7 and 10, Act V 1859—Mesne-profits—Interest.

Case No. 2504 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed b Judge of Hooghly, dated the 5th A 1870, reversing a decision of the Sub nate Judge of that District, dated the May 1870.

Shib Kristo Dah (Plaintiff), *Appellan*

versus

Abdool Sobhan Chowdhry (Defenda *Respondent.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Li hee Churn Bose* for Appellant.

Baboo Oopendro Chunder Bose for Respondent.

Defendant, who received earnest-money, exec deed of bynanamah contracting to convey to pl certain mourosee tenures, and to complete the co ance on a specified date; the value of the propert to be ascertained by local inquiry, pending which consideration-money would be represented by a p tage on the profits per annum, subject to future ad ment. Defendant failed to perform his part of contract, and sold the property. Plaintiff then su specific performance, and eventually obtained a de and under it possession. The present suit was bro by plaintiff to recover a sum of money

eration-money, which he would have been in a to recover from the profits but for defendant's of contract, which deprived him of interest, as of a sum paid on account of rent due by defend- interest—all which he claims.

that, as the breach of contract which is the basis resent suit was the cause of action in the former aintiff ought, under Section 7 of the Code of ocedure, to have included his whole claim in t. Having failed to do so, his present suit is

that the present claim was not one for mesne- coming within the purview of Section 10, but interest on sums advanced at different times.

p, J.—THE plaintiff is the special lant in this case. It is necessary to briefly to the previous litigation the parties, for, without doing so, osition of the parties and the nature e plaintiff's claim cannot be easily tood.

e defendant, on the 17th Pous 1269, ed a deed of bynanamah whereby he cted to convey to the plaintiff certain osee tenures situated in Zillah Hooghly, a certain sum was paid as earnest- y. It was also contracted that the deed veyance was to be completed on the Magh 1269, and that the value of the rty was to be ascertained on a local y. It was assumed, pending that local y, that a certain percentage on the per annum would represent the con- tion-money; and it was stipulated that, e inquiry showed that the value was he consideration would be reduced in tion; if more, it would be raised ac- gly. The defendant failed to perform rt of the contract, and sold the pro- to one Pearee Mohun Soor. The iff then sued for specific performance e contract, and after a protracted liti- n obtained a decree, and under that e obtained possession.

e present suit is brought by the plaint- recover the sum of 2,998 rupees. plaintiff states that he advanced 5,101 s on several dates, as part of the con- tion-money, to the defendant Abdool an Chowdhry. He further states that aid 229 rupees on account of rent due e zemindar, which Abdool Sobhan failed y. He goes on to state that, if Abdool an had carried out his contract, the iff would have been in a position to er from the profits of the property cent. upon the sum of 5,101 rupees, onsideration-money advanced by the iff to the said Abdool Sobhan on various dates; that, on the breach of the contract, he has been deprived of interest on his money for 6 years 6 months and 17 days, amounting, with the sum paid on account of rent due by Abdool Sobhan with interest, to 2,998 rupees, for which the plaintiff brings this suit. In the plaint it is distinctly stated that the cause of action is the breach of the contract on the part of Abdool Sobhan, which occurred on the 29th Magh 1269. A plea was taken in bar to the hearing of the suit under Section 7, Act VIII. of 1859. The first Court was of opinion that the suit was not barred, and gave the plaintiff a decree. On appeal, the Judge has held that Section 7 applies, and he has dismissed the plaintiff's suit.

In special appeal, we have to consider whether Section 7 applies or not; and also whether the claim in the present suit is for mesne profits so as to bring it under Section 10 or not.

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose, who has been heard for the appellant, has called our attention to two decisions to be found, one in the 5th Weekly Reporter, page 182, and the other in 8th Weekly Reporter, page 15. We take the decision in Volume 8 first. This is a Full Bench decision, and it contains an expression of the opinion of the late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes Peacock, to the effect that it is very inconvenient—and no doubt it is—that suits by reversioners should be brought against a number of defendants whose interests are altogether distinct from each other. In that case, the learned Chief Justice remarks that the validity of the different deeds under which the defendants held depended each upon its own merits. However, the decision did not turn upon that point—it turned solely upon a question under the Mitakshara Law. Consequently, that decision in no way applies to the present case.

Looking to the decision in Volume 5, we think that that decision, if anything, supports the finding of the Judge in this case, for the learned Judges who decided that case say that "Section 7 requires that all rights "arising out of the same cause of action "must be sued for together, but that Sec- "tion does not enact similar penalty for all "rights which may arise under different "dates and different causes of action."

The test, therefore, which we must apply to this case is the one which has been laid down in a case reported in 8th Weekly

Reporter, page 11, Privy Council Decisions, as a test applying to all cases There Lordships observe that the correct test in all cases in which the question is whether Section 7 applies or not is this, namely, whether the claim in the new suit is, in fact, founded on a cause of action distinct from that which was the foundation of the former suit.

Now, looking to the plaint in this suit, it is clear that the cause of action was the breach of the contract. This is distinctly stated in the plaint, and the date of the breach of the contract is also given therein on which the cause of action accrued. In the former suit the same cause of action was the basis of the suit, namely, the breach of this very contract.

Section 7 says that every suit shall include the whole of the claim arising out of the cause of action. It is, therefore, clear that the cause of action being the same, the plaintiff ought to have included his whole claim in the former suit. But it is said that, because Pearee Mohun was made a defendant in the former suit, and issues might have arisen between Pearee Mohun and the plaintiff in that suit, who is also the plaintiff in the present suit, therefore Section 7 does not apply.

We think that there is no force in this contention. The former suit was for specific performance as against the Mahomedan defendant. Pearee Mohun was, of course, made a party, because, subsequent to the breach of the contract, the Mahomedan defendant, who was the substantial defendant, had sold the property to Pearee Mohun. The main issue between the parties as tried by the Courts was whether the Mahomedan defendant had contracted to sell to the plaintiff or not, and whether or not he had broken that contract; and upon the finding of that issue depended whether the sale to Pearee Mohun was to stand or fall. It would not have been necessary to have gone further into that case as between the plaintiff and the Mahomedan defendant, because the plaintiff did not include, as he ought to have done, damages arising out of the breach of the contract. Of course, Pearee Mohun would not have had to pay the damages even if the issue had been raised. The sale to him was set aside, and he had to pay his own costs, because he purchased the property with notice of the contract between the plaintiff and the Mahomedan defendant; but as between the Mahomedan defendant the plaintiff, there was nothing to pr the plaintiff from including in his claim damages accruing from the breach of contract entered into between the pl and the said Mahomedan defendant. plaintiff not having, under the terms of tion 7, included the whole of the arising out of the cause of action, present cause of action being the the cause of action in the former think that Section 7 clearly applies.

It is attempted to bring the claim the terms of Section 10, namely, to out that it is a claim for mesne-profits that, therefore, it may be deemed a cause of action. We think that wholly untenable. The terms of the are these: "Certain sums of money "advanced by me on certain dates to "the defendant. If I had got possess "the property, I might have recover "per cent. as interest from the profit "therefore, claim 8 per cent. interest "certain term of years." This is cer not a claim for mesne-profits. Mesne fits are what a party has either collect could have collected. This is a clai interest at the rate of 8 per cent. on sums advanced on different dates to th fendant as part of the consideration-m This claim does not come within the pr of Section 10.

We, therefore, uphold the decision Judge, and dismiss the special appeal costs.

The 17th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G

Judges.

Rent-suit—Measurement—Excess la Pottah.

Case No. 2544 of 1870 under Act X 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision pas the Officiating Judge of Midn dated the 25th August 1870, afir a decision of the Deputy Collector that District, dated the 13th Dec 1869.

Radhika Prosunno Chunder and other (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Nehalee Churn Dey and others (Defend *Respondents.*

Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Appellants.

Baboo Grish Chunder Mookerjee for Respondents.

ing covenanted to take from *A* without in-out 18 beegahs of land at a rent of one rupee a with a stipulation that, if, on inquiry, any excess uld be found, he would pay the same rate of such excess; or if the area should be found less beegahs, that he would receive a proportionate from his rent; a measurement took place, and was discovered. *A* then sued *B* for rent on e quantity of land.

that *B* was liable to pay rent for the excess at of one rupee a beegah, and that the tender of by *A* to *B* was not necessary.

the issue, whether a pottah is tendered or not, raised in the Court of first instance, it ought e raised in the Lower Appellate Court.

p, J.—THIS is a suit on the part of the iffs for rent for 1274, 1275, and 1276. llegation of the plaintiff was that the dant held 18 beegahs of land at an an-rent of Rupees 18. Subsequently the as measured and jumma-bundee was By this measurement and jumma-e the land was ascertained to be 97 hs; therefore they are entitled to the f 97 rupees, or one rupee per beegah, ot 18 rupees, according to the amul-h. The defendant admitted that he 18 beegahs of land, and that he is to the plaintiff only for 9 rupees, be-e amount in arrear.

e Deputy Collector gave the plaintiff cree for the amount admitted by the dant. The Judge has confirmed this e. He holds that, according to the of the amulnamah, on which the on of liability entirely turns, the de-nt is not liable for the year 1274 to a higher rent than 18 rupees, or one per beegah, for 18 beegahs of land. Judge then proceeds to enter into a on which was not raised in the first , and holds that, inasmuch as the iff sued for specific performance, he before he can obtain a decree, show he has performed two material cove-, that is to say, that he has prepared a a-bundee, and tendered a pottah, and the defendant has refused to accept the h so tendered.

is already said that the case turns upon construction to be put on the amulna-It is very clear from the terms of amulnamah that the defendant, on the Pous 1273, covenanted to take, without inquiry, about 18 beegahs of land at the rate of one rupee a beegah from the year 1274. Then follows a stipulation to the effect: "If, on inquiry, any excess land "is found within the boundaries, you "will pay for as many beegahs as are "found to be in excess of 18 beegahs "at the rate of one rupee per beegah, and "if, on inquiry, the area is found to be "less than 18 beegahs, you will receive "a proportionate deduction."

It appears, therefore, to us that, it being admitted in the Judge's decision that the measurement has taken place, if there is an excess over 18 beegahs as stated by the plaintiff, that excess having been found on measurement, then, according to the terms of the amulnamah, the defendant would be liable to pay rent for that excess at the rate of one rupee per beegah.

With reference to the point which the Judge has raised, namely, whether the plaintiff has performed the material covenants stated by the Judge, we may observe that this point was not raised below. Moreover, the tender of the pottah is referred to in a subsequent clause of the amulnamah, and is entirely contingent upon the plaintiff's obtaining a further settlement from Government. We may also quote in support of our view a decision to be found at page 233, Weekly Reporter, Volume XIV. In that case, the issue, whether a pottah was tendered or not, not having been raised in the first Court, the learned Judges who decided that case held that it ought not to have been raised in the Lower Appellate Court. Moreover, that issue does not appear to us to be at all essential to the proper determination of the point at issue between the parties, which is this, namely, whether, according to the terms of the amulnamah, the defendant is liable to pay the old rent 18 rupees until the jumma-bundee and measurement have been completed in his presence, or whether, according to the terms of the amulnamah as construed by us, the defendant is liable to pay one rupee per beegah for any excess land found over and above the 18 beegahs for which he originally covenanted.

We have already explained the terms of the amulnamah as construed by us. It, therefore, only remains for the Judge to find, the measurement being admitted, whether the quantity of the excess land as stated by the plaintiff has been proved or not? If so,

we see no reason why the plaintiff should not obtain a decree for the rent of the excess land at the rate of one rupee per beegah as stated in the amulnamah.

The case will, therefore, be remanded to the Judge for a re-trial with reference to the above remarks.

Costs to follow the result.

The 18th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice.*

Declaratory decree—Appeal—Court Fees Act—Stamps.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Shahabad, dated the 30th December 1870.

A. B. Miller (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Akhooree Ram and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry* for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

In a suit for possession and wassilat, plaintiff obtained a decree declaring his right to possession upon the death of his father. Defendant appealed.

HELD that, as the decree had given consequential relief, *i. e.*, relief from the operation of conveyances and mortgages, which on the face of them affected plaintiff's interest, an appeal from the decree should bear an *ad-valorem* stamp-duty.

Note by the Deputy Registrar.—THE original suit was for possession with wassilat for a share in certain mouzahs named, and was first valued at 3,738 rupees 15 annas and 3 pie, being ten times the annual revenue.

The Court of first instance, without going into the merits, dismissed the suit on the grounds (1) that it was under-valued, and (2) that the plaintiff should have sued for a declaration of his future right.

On appeal, the Zillah Judge, without noticing the first point, confirmed the portion of the decision of the Court below which dismissed the suit, on the ground that the suit could not be entertained during the lifetime of the father, and that it should been for partition and for a declaratory that, after the death of the father, the ation made by him would not affect the iff's right.

Against that decision, the plaintiff sented the Special Appeal No. 2158 of and in remanding the case to the first for trial on the merits, this Court that the question of valuation be tak and dealt with in accordance with the sions of Section 31, Act VIII. of 1859.

The value was then altered from rupees 15 annas and 3 pie to 37,000 and the first Court, on remand, decid case by an order declaring the right plaintiff to possession of the property the death of his father, and dismiss suit for immediate possession.

The defendant now appeals to set that order, and has engrossed his petit appeal, as stated on his behalf, under 17, Clause 3, on a stamp of the value rupees.

Clause 3 provides a court fee of 10 for "Plaint or memorandum of appeal *tain* a declaratory order, where no quential relief is prayed."

This appeal is *to set aside* a decl order made in a suit for possession an silat, and therefore it is presumed quential relief *is* sought; and the co paid, *viz.*, 10 rupees, instead of 1055 appears altogether insufficient.

I beg to refer the point for the or the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

Norman, C. J.—I think that an *lorem* stamp-duty is payable. This an appeal in a suit where no conse relief is prayed. Nor can it be said consequential relief is given by th cree.

The plaintiff, by the decree, has ob relief from the operation of conveyance mortgages which on the face of them ed his interest. The ordinary in given of bills not praying for relief are to perpetuate testimony and bills of covery.

It does not follow that the appell bound to pay the value as on an against a decree for present possession.

b

The 18th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges*.

Bond—Suretyship—Cause of action.

Case No. 6 of 1870.

Appeal preferred, under Section 15 of the Letters Patent of the High Court of the 14th December 1865, against a judgment of the Hon'ble G. Loch and the Hon'ble E. Jackson, two of the Judges of this Court, in Special Appeal No. 817 of 1870, the said Judges having been equally divided in opinion.*

Heeruth Adhikaree (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

Mohinee Chunder Pakrassee (Defendant), *Respondent*.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Appellant.

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Respondent.

—Defendant required his agent (*B*) to procure for certain articles. *B*, not having ready money, borrowed a sum from *M*, for which he gave a bond to which *T* (a pleader employed by defendant) put his name and purchased and forwarded the articles in question. Subsequently *M* obtained a decree against *B* for the amount of the loan with interest, and the plaintiff after futile applications to the defendant for the money had to pay the whole amount of the decree. He then sued to recover.

Held that the plaintiff's cause of action was as a surety who had paid a debt for which, as between him and the defendant, the latter alone was liable, and that his cause of action arose when he paid the money.

Norman, C. J.—The facts of the case, as stated in the judgment of Mr. Justice Loch, may be follow :—

The defendant, who is a zemindar in the Rajshahye district, and also the employer of the plaintiff, who is a pleader of the Civil Court of Rajshahye, required certain articles for his daughter's marriage, and requested his agent Kalee Chunder Bhuttacharjee to procure them. Kalee Chunder, not having the ready money, borrowed the sum of Rupees 200 from one Tara Chand Moitro, for which Kalee Chunder gave a bond to which the plaintiff, at the request of Kalee Chunder, and being a pleader employed by the defendant, put his name. The bond is dated the 27th Assar 1268, or, in other words, the 10th July 1861.

Now, the position of the parties on that statement of Mr. Justice Loch, which is borne out by the statement of Mr. Justice Elphinstone Jackson and of the two Lower Courts, does not show either that the plaintiff lent any money to the zemindar, or that he sold the articles procured and forwarded by Kalee Chunder to the zemindar. Therefore, upon that bond, and on the transaction as it took place in 1861, the plaintiff had no cause of action against the defendant either for money lent or goods sold. I may add, as confirming this view of the facts, that there is not a suggestion that the plaintiff was to get any profit by the sale of the goods or any interest for the money, which he would have stipulated for had he advanced the money.

On the 30th August 1864, the creditor Tara Chand Moitro obtained a decree for the amount of the loan with interest against Kalee Chunder and the now plaintiff, and the plaintiff appears to have made repeated applications to the defendant, "for whose benefit," as Mr. Justice Loch says, "the money had been borrowed," for the amount; but the defendant having failed to pay it, the plaintiff had to pay the whole amount of the decree which he did in two instalments, namely, Rupees 281 on the 4th July 1866, and Rupees 390 on the 30th June 1868; and he brings this suit against the defendant for recovery of the money so paid on his (defendant's) account.

The cause of action which the plaintiff appears to have had on this statement of facts, and on such evidence as there is on the record, was a cause of action as a surety who had paid a debt for which, as between the plaintiff and the defendant, the defendant alone was liable.

It is wholly immaterial that, upon the form of the contract as between the plaintiff and the lender of the money, the plaintiff appeared to be the principal. Until the plaintiff paid the money due upon the bond, he had no right of action against the defendant. The first instalment was paid by the plaintiff on the 4th July 1866. This action is brought within three years from that time, namely, on the 22nd June 1869. It appears to me quite plain that the action is not barred by any provisions in the Limitation Act, XIV. of 1859.

* 14 W. R., p. 173.

That being so, I am of opinion that the decision of Mr. Justice Loch and also the decision of the Lower Appellate Court must be reversed, and the decree of the first Court must be restored and affirmed. The defendant to pay the plaintiff's costs in all Courts.

Macpherson, J.—Considering that the transaction was such as it is held to be by Mr. Justice Elphinstone Jackson, namely, that the defendant's agent Kalee Chunder borrowed the money, and the plaintiff merely stood security for the repayment of that money, I agree with the learned Chief Justice, and concur in the decree which he proposes to make.

Mitter, J.—I concur.

The 18th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and H. V. Bayley, *Judges.*

Costs—Review.

Case No. 27 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 15th December 1870.

Ram Sahoy Singh and another (Opposite Party), *Appellant,*

versus

Rookhoo Singh (Petitioner), *Respondent.*

Baboo Doorga Doss Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Aubinash Chunder Banerjee for Respondent.

An omission to award costs cannot be considered merely as a clerical error, but must be rectified by way of review within the prescribed time.

Loch, J.—In this case a suit was brought to recover Rupees 900.

The first Court gave the plaintiff a full decree.

The Judge, on appeal, modified the first Court's decree, and gave the plaintiff a decree for Rupees 200, with proportional costs, but made no order for costs in favor of the defendant as regards that portion of the suit which was dismissed.

A special appeal was preferred to this Court and dismissed.

Two years after the Judge had passed his decision in the case, an application was made on the part of the respondent to correct what he calls a clerical error in the decree, *viz.*, the omission to award costs to him on account of that part of the claim which was dismissed.

The Judge appears to have treated the matter simply as a clerical error; and without calling upon the opposite party to show cause why the decree should not be amended, he passed an order awarding costs to the defendant.

Subsequently, when the opposite party objected to that order by a petition, the Judge, after hearing what each party had to say, still held the omission to be merely a clerical error, and ordered it to be amended.

We do not think that the question of costs can be considered in this case merely as a clerical error. A Judge, when passing a decree, gives costs or refrains from giving costs for some reason or other; and if he refrain giving costs, and any party considers that he is entitled to obtain costs, he should apply within the prescribed time to the Judge for a review of that part of the decree which he considers injurious to himself. Now, it is clear that in the present case the petitioner could not file a petition for review, because there had been a special appeal to the High Court, and further he was out of time, and apparently had no cause to show why he did not make the petition in due time.

Under these circumstances, we think that the Judge was wrong in re-opening the question of costs after so long a time had elapsed, and we reverse the order with costs.

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The 18th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and H. V. Bayley, *Judges.*

Costs—Interest—Execution—Full Bench Ruling.

Case No. 51 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 28th January 1871.

Rajah Leelanund Singh (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Rajah Ram Narain Singh (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf and *Baboo Boodh Sein Singh* for Respondent.

HELD that the principle of the Full Bench Ruling reported at page 109 of 6 Weekly Reporter (Miscellaneous Rulings) is as much applicable to interest upon costs as it is to interest upon mesne-profits not awarded by the decree, and must be applied to all decrees passed either before or after the date of that judgment.

Loch, J.—THE petitioner in this case seeks to execute a decree for costs, and applies to have them *with interest.* The decree says nothing about interest upon costs, but it is urged that, under the practice of the late Sudder Court, every decree for costs necessarily carried interest with it upon those costs; and it is further urged that the Full Bench judgment, reported in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 109, Miscellaneous Rulings, is not applicable to cases of this kind, as the decree now sought to be executed is a decree of the Sudder Court, and not of the High Court; and that the principle laid down in that judgment relates only to mesne profits and interest on mesne-profits not awarded by the decree of the Court, and is not applicable to cases of interest upon costs.

Two decisions by a Division Bench of this Court have been referred to: the one reported in Volume II., page 21, Miscellaneous Rulings; and the other in Volume III., page 21, Miscellaneous Rulings, in which it was held that, under the practice of the Sudder Court, interest on costs followed even when not specially mentioned in the order. It appears to me that the judgment of the Full Bench referred to above *does* apply to a case of this kind, and that the principle laid down in that judgment is as much applicable to interest upon costs as it is to interest upon mesne-profits not awarded by the decree, and that that judgment must be considered as overruling the judgments reported in Volumes II. and III. of the Weekly Reporter, for we find these words in that judgment which seem to embrace all questions of the kind: "We have no doubt that, "in executing a decree, the Court which "executes it has no power to alter or add "to it." But it is said that the judgment which is now sought to be executed is one of the late Sudder Court; and the practice of that Court was to allow interest upon the costs, although the decree made no provision as to interest. I believe that such was the practice, and I have stated it more than once in judgments; but nevertheless we must, I think, now apply the principle of the ruling of the Full Bench to all decrees passed either before or after the date of that judgment; and under this view of the case, I think that the petitioner cannot now recover more than what the decree gives him, and that is simple costs of the suit. The order of the Lower Court is set aside. Each party must bear his own costs of this appeal.

Bayley, J.—I need only add that I entirely concur with Mr. Justice Loch, and that this appeal is exactly analogous to the case of Rajah Leelanund Singh *versus* Maharajah Joy Mungul Singh, decided by myself and Mr. Justice Mitter on the 1st April last.*

The 18th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Incidental findings—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2486 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Cuttack, dated the 19th September 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Balasore, dated the 25th March 1870.

Shib Pershad Panah (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Muddun Mohun [illegible] (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

* *Ante,* p. 335.

That being so, I am of opinion that the decision of Mr. Justice Loch and also the decision of the Lower Appellate Court must be reversed, and the decree of the first Court must be restored and affirmed. The defendant to pay the plaintiff's costs in all Courts.

Macpherson, J.—Considering that the transaction was such as it is held to be by Mr. Justice Elphinstone Jackson, namely, that the defendant's agent Kalee Chunder borrowed the money, and the plaintiff merely stood security for the repayment of that money, I agree with the learned Chief Justice, and concur in the decree which he proposes to make.

Mitter, J.—I concur.

The 18th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and H. V. Bayley, *Judges.*

Costs—Review.

Case No. 27 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 15th December 1870.

Ram Sahoy Singh and another (Opposite Party), *Appellant,*

versus

Rookhoo Singh (Petitioner), *Respondent.*

Baboo Doorga Doss Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Aubinash Chunder Banerjee for Respondent.

An omission to award costs cannot be considered merely as a clerical error, but must be rectified by way of review within the prescribed time.

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A special appeal was preferred to Court and dismissed.

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ts—Interest—Execution—Full Bench Ruling.

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n that the principle of the Full Bench Ruling d at page 109 of 6 Weekly Reporter (Miscella- Rulings) is as much applicable to interest upon it is to interest upon mesne-profits not awarded decree, and must be applied to all decrees passed before or after the date of that judgment.

ch, J.—THE petitioner in this case to execute a decree for costs, and s to have them *with interest.* The e says nothing about interest upon but it is urged that, under the practice e late Sudder Court, every decree for necessarily carried interest with it those costs; and it is further urged the Full Bench judgment, reported in me VI., Weekly Reporter, page 109, llaneous Rulings, is not applicable to of this kind, as the decree now sought executed is a decree of the Sudder , and not of the High Court; and that principle laid down in that judgment s only to mesne profits and interest on e-profits not awarded by the decree of Court, and is not applicable to cases of rest upon costs.

wo decisions by a Division Bench of Court have been referred to: the one rted in Volume II., page 21, Miscella- s Rulings; and the other in Volume III., 21, Miscellaneous Rulings, in which it held that, under the practice of the der Court, interest on costs followed when not specially mentioned in the r. It appears to me that the judgment of the Full Bench referred to above *does* apply to a case of this kind, and that the principle laid down in that judgment is as much applicable to interest upon costs as it is to interest upon mesne-profits not awarded by the decree, and that that judgment must be considered as overruling the judgments reported in Volumes II. and III. of the Weekly Reporter, for we find these words in that judgment which seem to embrace all questions of the kind: "We have no doubt that, "in executing a decree, the Court which "executes it has no power to alter or add "to it." But it is said that the judgment which is now sought to be executed is one of the late Sudder Court; and the practice of that Court was to allow interest upon the costs, although the decree made no provision as to interest. I believe that such was the practice, and I have stated it more than once in judgments; but nevertheless we must, I think, now apply the principle of the ruling of the Full Bench to all decrees passed either before or after the date of that judgment; and under this view of the case, I think that the petitioner cannot now recover more than what the decree gives him, and that is simple costs of the suit. The order of the Lower Court is set aside. Each party must bear his own costs of this appeal.

Bayley, J.—I need only add that I entirely concur with Mr. Justice Loch, and that this appeal is exactly analogous to the case of Rajah Leelanund Singh *versus* Maharajah Joy Mungul Singh, decided by myself and Mr. Justice Mitter on the 1st April last.*

The 18th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Incidental findings—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2486 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Cuttack, dated the 19th September 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Balasore, dated the 25th March 1870.

Shib Pershad Panah (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Muddun Mohun Doss (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

* *Ante*, p. 335.

Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee and *Tarucknath Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Obhoy Churn Bose* for Respondent.

An incidental finding by a Revenue Court as to the genuineness of a pottah is no bar to the jurisdiction of a Civil Court to try the same question on a distinct issue in a regular suit.

Glover, J.—This was a suit to cancel a pottah on the ground that it was a forgery. The Court of first instance considered that, inasmuch as in a former suit under Act X. of 1859 between the parties to this suit it had been decided by the Deputy Collector that the pottah was a genuine instrument, the present action was barred by Section 2 of Act VIII. of 1859 on the principle of *res adjudicata*. The Judge, on the contrary, held that, although there had been a decision by the Deputy Collector, and afterwards by the Collector, as to the genuineness of this document, still, as that finding had not been come to upon any distinct issue regularly laid down as to the genuineness or otherwise of the pottah, it was a mere incidental finding, and could not bar the jurisdiction of the Civil Court.

The defendant appeals specially. We think that the Judge's decision remanding the case for a trial on the merits was a correct one. The Deputy Collector, in the case decided on the 27th of October 1868, tried only one issue, which, we think, was the proper issue under the circumstances of that case, namely, whether the intervenors or the plaintiff were in *bonâ-fide* receipt and enjoyment of the rent claimed; and in order to decide this issue, he took into consideration the pottah now in question, and he undoubtedly did find on the evidence that that pottah was a genuine one. The Collector also, before whom the case came in appeal, came to the same opinion; but although both these Courts did incidentally determine that this pottah was genuine, it is quite clear, on reading their decisions, that no issue was fixed on that particular point, nor indeed could there have been any such issue, as the only question then before the Courts was the *bonâ-fide* receipt and enjoy- [illegible] by one party or the other; and [illegible] decided in order to enable Courts to arrive a[illegible] a satisfactory finding the substantial issue before [illegible] them was [illegible]termined incidentally for the purposes that suit only; and according to many [illegible]isions of this Court, such an incidental [illegible]ding or expression of opinion by a Revenue Court would not be a bar to [illegible] jurisdiction of the Civil Court to try, [illegible] a distinct issue in a regular suit, the [illegible] tion of the genuineness or otherwise of [illegible] pottah.

The case of Pitumber Shaha and oth[illegible] *versus* Ram Joy Ghose and others, [illegible]ported in Volume VII., Weekly Reports, [illegible] exactly in point with this case. It is [illegible] laid down that a proceeding in a suit u[illegible] Act X. of 1859, in which the Collector [illegible] not finally adjudicate upon the genuine[illegible] of a pottah, although he accepted it as [illegible]nuine, is no bar to a subsequent suit in [illegible] Civil Court for a declaration that the p[illegible] is a forgery. Another case, that of S[illegible] damonee Dossee *versus* Ram Chand [illegible] and others, in Volume X., Weekly Repo[illegible] page 38, lays it down that in a suit [illegible] arrears of rent in which an interv[illegible] opposed the plaintiff's claim (which is [illegible]cisely the case here), and where the De[illegible] Collector, collaterally and incidentally [illegible] guiding his mind to a conclusion on an i[illegible] which arose under Section 77 of Act X [illegible] 1859, thought proper to inquire into [illegible] state his opinion as on matters of title [illegible]tween the plaintiff and the *intervenor*, [illegible] could not be said, in the sense of Section [illegible] to determine a question of title between [illegible] parties by his judgment.

The other case referred to by the sp[illegible] appellant's pleader was brought under C[illegible] 5, Section 23 of Act X. of 1859, and w[illegible] eject the defendant, and has really no r[illegible]ence to the present dispute; there wa[illegible] question in that case as to the genuine[illegible] of the pottah. It was assumed that [illegible] pottah was genuine.

We think that the decision of the De[illegible] Collector in the former case as to the [illegible]nuineness of this pottah was an incide[illegible] decision only, and that the question of [illegible] and title was not determined by him in [illegible] a way as to prevent the Civil Court [illegible] going into the question of the genuineness [illegible] otherwise of that pottah in the present suit.

The Judge's order, therefore, remand[illegible] the case for trial on the merits is confirm[illegible] and the special appeal dismissed with co[illegible]

The 18th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

e of proprietary title—Putneedar—Ryot —Rights of occupancy.

Case No. 2551 of 1870.

Appeal from a decision passed by the ge of West Burdwan, dated the 6th ember 1870, affirming a decision of Moonsiff of Sonamookhee, dated the May 1870.

am Ghose (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Radha Churn Gangooly (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Appellant.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondent.

ere change in the proprietary title of an estate t entitle a putneedar, who holds from the new tor, to eject a tenant who can prove a right of acy.

p, *J.*—THIS is a suit brought by the iff, who obtained a putnee lease from aharajah of Burdwan on the 14th of n 1274, to eject the defendant from n lands. The plaint states that the ajah, having obtained a decree for nds in a suit No. 16, as appertaining Hooda Rooppal in Pergunnah Bishto- granted a putnee of the mehal to the iff; that the defendant was in wrongful sion of these lands; that, on the plaint- ng to take possession, he was forcibly by the defendant on the 7th of k 1275; that upon this the plaintiff let he lands to one Kitab Sheikh and ab Bagdee, and that they not paying ent the plaintiff attached their crops; upon this the defendant objected and med the crops as having been raised by ; that the Deputy Collector, in 1868, in case No 50 released these crops; and the plaintiff's cause of action, therefore, e on the 2nd of Kartick 1274 when crops were released. He sues for possession and for demolition of the dant's houses.

The defendant's answer is to this effect: That he has been in possession of these lands for a very long time, or from the time of the Rajah of Bishtopore, as appertaining to the mouzah of Hurreekistopore; that, on the mouzah Hurreekistopore being resumed by Government, the lands in dispute were found to be in his possession, and were assessed as such by the Government; that, on a settlement being made by Government with Buldeb Singh for the parent mouzah of Hurreekistopore, the defendant paid his rent to the aforesaid Buldeb Singh; that he is not a trespasser as stated by the plaintiff; that the allegation that Kitab Sheikh had obtained a bundobust from the plaintiff was false; that, on the plaintiff attaching the defendant's crops as belonging to Kitab Sheikh and Bhyrub, the defendant immediately put forward a claim which was found to be good, and the crops were released; that the defendant was no party to this suit No. 16, and therefore that suit is no evidence as against him; that the defendant has been in occupation of these lands for much more than 12 years, and that, therefore, if the plaintiff's or his predecessor's title in the lands has been found to exist by any decision of the Civil Court, still the plaintiff would not be entitled under the law to eject the defendant.

Both Courts have found for the plaintiff. The first Court appears to have found that the defendant had been in occupation of these lands for more than 12 years; "but that, "as the defendant had not acknowledged "the plaintiff's proprietary right, but, on the "contrary, calls Buldeb Singh his landlord, "though the latter has no ownership in the "property in question, therefore the Moon- "siff comes to the conclusion that the de- "fendant is willing to be the ryot of Buldeb "Singh, and not of the plaintiff; but as a "Court of Justice had declared the plaintiff "to be the owner, and the defendant would "like to be the plaintiff's tenant, therefore "the defendant could not be awarded what "he never prayed for." These are the words of the first Court.

The Judge, on appeal, admits that the decree No. 16 does not affect the jummaie rights of tenants, but that, as the defendant denies his relation of tenant to the plaintiff, he must, therefore, be considered to be a trespasser, and to have forfeited any right of occupation which he may have had. Then the Judge goes on to say that the defendant's witnesses are worthless—

that there is no reliable proof of the defendant's possession of the tenure for 12 years. The reasons given for this opinion are that the resumption-proceedings are of the 17th December 1861, and the Moonsiff says the Judge has made a miscalculation, and that the plaintiff's witnesses do not say that the defendant had houses before 1268, though his brother may have had houses upon the land before that time. The Judge then concludes by saying that, even if the defendant has been in possession for more than 12 years, he cannot proceed on two opposite pleas, namely, that he is the ryot of Buldeb Singh, and not of the plaintiff; and 2ndly, that he is a ryot having a right of occupancy, and willing to pay rent to the plaintiff.

We are of opinion that the decision of the Judge is wrong. It appears to us that the Judge has proceeded on a misconception of the defence set up by the defendant in this case. What the defendant says is this, that the lands in dispute had been held by him for a very long time, much more than 12 years, as belonging to mouzah Hurreekistopore, a resumed mehal; that, in 1861, he was found in possession of the lands by the Government authorities when they resumed the mouzah Hurreekistopore, and on a settlement being made with Buldeb Singh, he, the defendant, has paid rent to Buldeb Singh; that, not being a party to the suit No. 16, he, the defendant, was not aware of the change in the proprietary title; that he is a ryot having a right of occupancy, and one who cannot be ejected by the plaintiff, even if the title of the plaintiff has been declared to be that of malik of the disputed lands. There is no distinct denial of the plaintiff's title, and what the defendant says is simply that, if the plaintiff's title to the particular piece of land in suit has been declared by a Civil Court, he is entitled to receive rent from me, but he is not entitled to eject me. It appears that the suit of the Maharajah was against Buldeb Singh to set aside the settlement made with Buldeb, and to establish that these lands belonged, not to Hurreekistopore, but to the Maharajah's mouzah in Pergunnah Bishtopore. The Rajah obtained a decree in 1273. It appears that he also obtained wassilat, and the Moonsiff in his decision recites that the Rajah obtained wassilat from the occupant ryots, and amongst them from the defendant. However, be that as it may, it is clear that the mere change in the proprietary title would not entitle the plaintiff, who holds from the Maharajah, whose title comm in 1274, to eject the defendant if he prove a right of occupancy in the Now, the Judge has found that the plai witnesses, although they do not say the defendant had houses before 1268, that his brother had houses there that time. We think we may infer fro Judge's decision that the plaintiff's wit did admit the defendant's possession for than 12 years; for he says, if even the de ant's possession was for more than 12 he cannot proceed on two opposite pl set forth above.

The first Court, too, found that th fendant had established his right of pancy; for he says that the witnesses f plaintiff state that the defendant's b had houses on these lands many year and that, although the defendant wa then living with his brother, the houses built upon these very lands now in pute.

We, therefore, think that the plain not entitled to eject the defendant, or t tain khas possession, or to destroy the h erected by the defendant many years We, therefore, reverse the decision o Judge, and decree this appeal with costs

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The 19th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onoo Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Intervention under Section 77, Act X, Collector's recusancy— High Court's ference—Section 15, Charter Act.

Sreemutty Nassir Jan and another, *Petitioners,*

versus

Akbur Mozoomdar, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Luleet Chunder Sein for Petitioners.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Opposite Party.

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ere a Collector refused to notice an intervenor's because the intervenor had not filed a document ch her title rested, he was held to have refused the case, and thus to warrant the High Court's rence under Section 15 of the Charter Act.

kson, J.—THE applicant in this case ed a rule calling upon the other side w cause why the decision of the Col- of Tipperah, dated the 18th May 1870, case of Jamiruddin Bhooeah, gomash- Akbur Mozoomdar, plaintiff, appel- *ersus* Haniff Bhooeah, defendant, and r Jan, intervenor, respondents, should set aside on the ground that it had been d upon irrelevant grounds. Cause has ay been shown, and it is alleged that ourt has no jurisdiction to interfere; because this is not a case in which ourt has refused jurisdiction which it d have exercised, and partly because arties have an opportunity to set aside ecision by a regular suit.

the first point, we are of opinion, look- the decision of the Collector, that he fused to exercise the jurisdiction which ould have exercised. He has in no way the question at issue between the iff and the intervenor, upon which must depend the question as between plaintiff and ryot-defendant. Looking terms of Section 77 of Act X. of 1859, estion at issue was whether the inter- , third party, or the plaintiff, was in t of rent from the ryot-defendant be- the institution of this suit. This issue istinctly laid down as one of the points tried by the Collector. But instead iding it, he refused to consider or any notice whatever of the claim of ird party, because that third party had ed a deed of gift on which her title . It is evident that this is no decision er upon the case. It was not for ollector to ascertain whether the inter- 's title was good or bad. The deed of could only be of any use in order to tain the validity of her title, and the filing of the document could not possi- be any evidence whatever in the suit. in fact, therefore, a direct refusal to try ase altogether. To lay down that, be- such and such a document was not , therefore her claim must be utterly bad, decision on the point at issue. The ctor might have as well decided the case any other equally irrelevant ground that which was before him for decision. It is possible that the intervenor might have brought a separate suit in the Civil Court to rectify this decision. But it is a question what effect that would have on the claim as between the plaintiff and the ryot-defendant.

We think we ought not to allow this decision to stand as it is, but that the case should be sent back to the Collector with directions to him that he will consider the evidence upon the record, and try the question as between the intervenor and the plaintiff, looking especially to the provisions of Section 77, Act X of 1859; and upon his decision as between the intervenor and the plaintiff, and upon the consideration of any other fact or any other point which may arise as between the plaintiff and the defendant, he will decide the case as between the plaintiff and the ryot.

Costs of this proceeding will be paid by the plaintiff, assessed at two gold mohurs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur. It is evident that in this case the Collector has refused to try the appeal, or any of the issues which legitimately arise in a case under Section 77, Act X. of 1859. He declines to try the case simply on the ground that the intervenor has not filed the deed of gift under which he claims possession. The question he had to decide was whether the intervenor was "in the actual receipt and enjoyment of the rent." He fixes the issues correctly, but declined to try them, merely because the deed of gift has not been filed. If he had tried the question of possession and actual receipt of rent, his decision on that point, however wrong or improper, would perhaps have been final according to law. But as the Judge has refused to try the real issue before him, and disposed of the case on a matter wholly irrelevant to the point before him, it must be held that he has refused to exercise a jurisdiction vested in him by law. Under the powers of superintendence given to this Court by the Charter Act, I hold that we can direct Courts subordinate to this Court to do their duty, and to see that they do not avoid to try and determine cases simply because a party to the suit has not done that which he was not imperatively required to do, and which is irrelevant to the real question which the Court had to decide. This I should consider a refusal to exercise a jurisdiction where he had one under the law.

The 19th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Suit for pottah—Amulnamah—Onus probandi.

Case No. 2541 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Midnapore, dated the 12th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 30th July 1869.

Kishen Pershad Singh and others (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Mohun Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Appellants.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboos Doorga Mohun Doss* and *Huree Mohun Chuckerbutty* for Respondent.

The proprietors of a certain holding having refused the terms of Government, a farming settlement was made with the present defendant who undertook to confirm and ratify all amulnamahs granted by the zemindars while the settlement-proceedings had been pending. Plaintiff, being a ryot without a right of occupancy, but one who had got an amulnamah, sued for a pottah at the rate fixed by the amulnamah.

HELD that the amulnamah formed the basis of a special contract between the parties, and took their case out of the purview of Sections 5 and 8 of the Rent Law; and that by the terms of the amulnamah the defendant was bound to give plaintiff a pottah on fair and equitable rates ("*upajukta*"), which were to depend on the rates which he himself obtained from Government.

HELD that the *onus* of proving that the rate which he claimed was fair and equitable was upon the plaintiff.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this case sued his zemindar (a farmer holding under Government) for a pottah for a period of 14 years, at a rate of 1 rupee per beegah on a holding of 222 beegahs.

It appears that, whilst negotiations for settlement were going on with the original proprietors, these were allowed to make arrangements with the ryots, and to give them amulnamahs. For some reason or other, however, the proprietors refused the Government terms, and a farming settlement was made with the present defendant, he undertaking to confirm and ratify all amulnamahs that had been granted by zemindars during the time the settlement-proceedings had been pending. The plaintiff one of those ryots who had got an amu mah from the zemindars, and on the stre of it he sued for a pottah at the rate sai be fixed by it.

The farmer denied, in the first place, he was bound by the amulnamah at all alleged that in any case the plaintiff c only get a pottah on terms which he, fendant, should agree upon, plaintiff being an "occupant ryot;" that, a matter of fact, the plaintiff was c upon to take a settlement of the land Rupee 1-4 a beegah, which was cons ably less than the proper rate, but as he refused to attend, and take the se ment, the land was leased to another ten

The Court of first instance gave a de to the plaintiff for a pottah at Rupee beegah for 14 years.

But, on appeal, the Judge modified decision. He thought the plaintiff ent to a pottah at fair and equitable rates for a reasonable time only. He ordered defendant to give plaintiff a pottah for years at one rupee per beegah.

Both parties have appealed against decision. The cross-appeal of the plain however, was not pressed, and need not considered.

The farmer appeals, urging in the place that, supposing him to be bound by amulnamah, the plaintiff is not entitled pottah at the rent claimed, inasmuch as is not an occupant-ryot, and does not c under Section 5, Act X. of 1859, as suppo by the Judge, but under Section 8 of Act, by which he could only be entit to a pottah on terms agreed to by the mindar.

We have had this amulnamah read to It recites that so much land had been gi to the plaintiff at one rupee a beegah for year (1274) without any inquiry made, that a settlement would afterwards be ma with him for such term as Governm might give to the zemindar, after measu ment and arrangement of the proper rent *fair and proper rates.* The word used "*upajukta,*" and the meaning of it is, have no doubt, what is called in Act "a fair and equitable" rate.

We think that this amulnamah form the basis of a special contract between parties, and took their case out of the pu

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of Sections 5 and 8 of the Rent Law. here been no such special agreement, pellant would, no doubt, be right, for it r that the plaintiff has no right of ancy, and, if he wanted a pottah, would ad to arrange for it as best he could his landlord—Section 8 would apply case, and not Section 5.

by the terms of the amulnamah, we that the defendant bound himself to e plaintiff a pottah at fair and reasonates, which were to depend on the terms he himself obtained from Government. It is not denied that the farmer has s lease from Government at the rate nt 12 annas a beegah, and the questould be what is a fair rent for the hich the plaintiff holds.

, the Judge, in deciding this point, ven the plaintiff the "status" of an ant-ryot, and has held that, under 5 of Act X. of 1859, the rent previpaid is to be considered a fair and le rent, unless the contrary be shown. ent for the year 1274 was admittedly e per beegah; *ergo*, it was on the dent to show that this was not the proper r the future. There can be no doubt, ink, that the Judge is wrong here. laintiff is not an occupant ryot, and is herefore, entitled to the privilege acd to him. The *onus* of showing that e of 1 rupee per beegah is the fair uitable rate was upon him, and it was the farmer to show that 1 rupee was e proper rate, until the plaintiff had some evidence that it was the proper The Judge, however, has decided the olely on the inability of the defendant fy him that the proper rate was more rupee.

re is, we are told, evidence on the on the part of the plaintiff which that the rate was 1 rupee 2 annas; ither of the Courts below has come to ding on the plaintiff's evidence. The iff has decided for a rate of 1 rupee as, because a third party (the ryot now ession) pays that rate. The Judge has 1 rupee because that was the rate in and the defendant has not been able to that it ought to be more now. Both e findings appear to us wrong.

e think that the case must go back for a g on the whole evidence as to what are d equitable rates for the plaintiff's due regard being had to the circumstances under which they were taken and to the nature of the improvements (if any) made by the plaintiff on the holding.

When the fair rate is ascertained, the point will arise as to whether it is that at which a pottah is claimed by the plaintiff. If it be so, we think that, under the terms of the amulnamah, the plaintiff would be entitled to such pottah. If, on the other hand, the plaintiff has sued for a pottah at a less rate than that found to be fair and equitable, he will not be entitled to a decree, but will have his suit entirely dismissed. The rule in such a case has been laid down in Gholam Mahomed *versus* Asmut Ali Khan (10 Weekly Reporter 14, F. B.).

The case is remanded to the first Court with reference to the above remarks. Costs to follow the result.

The 20th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Forged mortgage—Bond—Declaratory suit—Substantial relief.

Case No. 2218 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Shahabad, dated the 17th August 1870, affirming a decision of the First Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 14th May 1870.

Fukeer Chand (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Thakoor Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. Mun Mohun Ghose for Appellant.

Messrs. R. T. Allan and *R. E. Twidale* for Respondent.

In a suit to obtain a declaration that a certain mortgage-bond which had been registered was falsely alleged to have been registered by the plaintiff, and was invalid as being a forgery, the registration having been obtained by false personation:

HELD that the existence of the mortgage was a distinct cloud on plaintiff's title, and, without any proof of special damage, diminished the value to him of the property which it apparently covered; and that such suit was not merely a declaratory suit, but one seeking substantial relief.

Macpherson, J.—THE only ground of special appeal which it is necessary for me

to notice—because I think that it is the only one in which there is any substance—is the first, namely, that the plaint merely asks for a declaratory decree, and therefore discloses no legal cause of action.

The suit is brought to obtain a declaration that a certain mortgage-bond, dated 24th March 1869, which has, in fact, been registered, and is falsely alleged to have been registered by the plaintiff, is invalid as being a forgery, the registration of which was obtained by a false personation of the plaintiff.

The defendant, while contending that the suit would not lie as being merely for a declaratory decree, pleaded that the bond was genuine, and was really executed by the plaintiff, and that the plaintiff himself got it registered.

The Lower Appellate Court has found the facts for the plaintiff, that is to say, has found that the bond is a forgery, and that the plaintiff never executed it, and never got it registered.

Mr. Mun Mohun Ghose, for the defendant, contends that, inasmuch as no special injury to the plaintiff, by reason of the existence of this bond, is alleged in the plaint or found by the Lower Appellate Court, and inasmuch as it is neither alleged nor proved that the defendant has ever taken any action against the plaintiff upon this bond, the suit is bad as being simply for a declaratory decree; and he has cited a variety of cases in support of that contention.

I admit that most of the cases do support his view to a certain extent. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the general result to be drawn from them is no more than this—that a declaratory suit will not lie if the document which the suit seeks to set aside does not necessarily affect the plaintiff's enjoyment of his property, or does not raise any substantial cloud upon his title which he is obliged to dispel by suit. In the present case, however, it is clear that the facts found by the Lower Appellate Court necessarily show that a very serious cloud is cast upon the plaintiff's title by the deed which he now seeks to set aside. The existence of a mortgage-deed, purporting to have been registered by the plaintiff himself, is a distinct cloud upon his title to the land affected by that deed, and, without any special evidence to prove the damage, it cannot be doubted th existence of such a documen: necessa minishes the value, to the plaintiff, property which is apparently covered mortgage-deed. I think, therefore, th this particular instance, the suit is of those inofficious needless suits whi not lie, but that it is a suit in whi plaintiff is found to have sustained, a sustaining, very substantial injury act of the defendant which is complai I think, therefore, that the suit will li

It is very difficult in these questio ing under Section 15, Act VIII. of 18 lay down any general rule applicable cases. It appears to me that each ca be judged of by its own particular c stances and on its own merits.

The decision which I now give, ho does not conflict in any degree with th eral principles of most of the cases have been quoted by Mr. Mun Mohun G And certainly they do not conflict wi judgment—upon which he relied mu Mr. Justice Bayley and Mr. Justice Pa ported in 14 Weekly Reporter, page I find there that Mr. Justice Paul di expresses his opinion that such a suit, present suit is, will lie if the deed wh sought to be set aside manifestly a questionably does throw a cloud over t of the plaintiff.

Under all the circumstances of this c think the suit is a substantial suit se substantial relief, and not merely a de tory suit, because the effect of the de tion will be to relieve the property o which is a great injury to it, and dimi its value.

I think, therefore, that the appeal to be dismissed, and the judgment Lower Appellate Court ought to be a with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I entirely concu think the plaintiff in this case had a cause of action, and that it was nec for him to bring this suit. A very se cloud was cast on his title, and he had right to sue to dispel that cloud. Su the plaintiff wanted to raise a large su money on this property, say equal to market-value, and for that purpose h plied to a mahajun or any other man of ness. It is most probable that the lender

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ate inquiries in the Registry Office. hat inquiry, it would be found that a sum of money had already been advanc- the borrower by the defendant on the y of this property, and finding that der would probably decline to advance ount asked for. Would it be said that aintiff even then had suffered no injury, e the defendant has not taken any on the bond. The defendant had pub- his mortgage by causing it to be regis- It is a notice to the world that the of the property has diminished by the nt advanced by him, and intending asers and lenders will not advance sums of money in respect of this pro- as they would have otherwise done. plaintiff, therefore, had good reasons to into Court, and ask for a declaration the deed of mortgage purporting to been registered by him in favor of the dant be declared a false and invalid do- nt. The mere fact of the defendant not g yet taken any action on the bond is consequence; for as long as the deed ins unchallenged, the value of plaintiff's erty is deteriorated, and there is a heavy d upon the plaintiff's title to it. It ot be well argued that the plaintiff must till he is actually injured, namely, till has occasion to deal with this property, till parties actually decline to advance ey to him on the ground of this mort- e. But why should the plaintiff wait that time? He sees that a deed, which he not executed, had been registered in a lic office as a deed executed by him. It ertainly a cloud on his title, and tends to reciate the value of his property. He is, my opinion, quite right in bringing this on to remove that cloud, and thereby to ore the property to its full value.

The 20th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Appellate Courts—Local inquiry.

Case No. 2439 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, dated the 23rd August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Kishenpore, dated the 29th December 1869.

Monkee Dumber Sahee and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Monkee Bhullundur Sahee and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Lukhee Churn Bose for Appellants.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Respondents.

Appellate Courts ought not to interfere with the result of a local inquiry, except upon very clearly defined and sufficient grounds.

Kemp, J.—We do not think it necessary to call upon the pleader for the respondent in this case. This is a boundary-dispute between the two villages of Beetee and Bora Koocha. Both Courts have come to a finding that the lands in dispute do not belong to the village of the plaintiff, but belong to the village of Bora Koocha, the property of the defendant. In this case, the boundary between the two villages was laid down by Colonel Davis in 1861, and there are two prominent land-marks alluded to, namely, the Pyna Pahar on the east and Betyatolah on the south. The Moonsiff appears to have made two local inquiries—the latter inquiry appears to have been a more careful one than the former one—and the Moonsiff appears to have satisfied himself of the position of the disputed lands. He ascended the Pyna Pahar, and ascertained that the lands in dispute appertained to the mouzah of the defendant, and had all along been in his possession. This decision was confirmed by the Judicial Commissioner, who also laid down the proper issue for trial, and found, concurring

with the Moonsiff, that the lands in dispute appertained to Mouzah Bora Koocha, the property of the defendant. It is now said that the Moonsiff ought to have decided the case with reference to both the landmarks, namely, Pyna Pahar and Betyatolah.

We think there is no force whatever in this contention. There is no doubt that the Moonsiff has found that these lands lie far to the south of Pyna Pahar, which is on the line of boundary as laid down by Colonel Davis, and he has also found on the evidence that the defendant was in possession. In a late case decided by the Privy Council, Ranee Surut Soonduree Dossee *versus* Prosunno Coomar Tagore,* their Lordships held that Appellate Courts in India ought not to interfere with the result of a local enquiry, except upon very clearly defined and sufficient grounds. Now, here we have a local inquiry in which both the Courts below have concurred. In the case before the Privy Council, the judgments were conflicting—the Zillah Court taking one view and the High Court another view of the local inquiry; and yet their Lordships held that the Appellate Court ought not to have interfered with the results of the local inquiry except on the strongest grounds. Here we have two Courts concurring—and this is a special appeal.

We dismiss the special appeal with costs.

The 20th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Enhancement of rent—Kubooleut—Res judicata—Maintenance—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2512 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Cuttack, dated the 20th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 31st March 1870.

Rajah Kristo Chunder Murdraj (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Poorosuttum Doss and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Obhoy Churn Bose for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Unnoda Prosad Banerjee* for Respondents.

Where a suit for a kubooleut at an enhanced rent decreed without any term being fixed by the Court the kubooleut executed is inoperative beyond the [illegible] of demand.

Such a decree is no bar under Section 2, Act VIII 1859, to a suit for a declaration of the right of the plaintiff (defendant in the former suit) to hold the same land in lieu of maintenance on payment of a quit-rent which cannot be tried by a Collector.

Glover, J.—The plaintiff in this case sues for a declaration of his right to hold certain lands at a fixed rent of Rupees 20. To understand the nature of his claim, it will be necessary to go somewhat into detail.

Bikram Singh, zemindar of Pergunnah Sussoo, was sued by his nephew, Jugo Mohun Doss, in 1840 for his share of the family estate. The result was a compromise, by which Jugo Mohun, in addition to certain other property, got the lands now in dispute as a maintenance-grant at a perpetual fixed rent of Rupees 20, with a proviso, however, that, should the estate be sold for arrears of Government revenue, the grantee would not be protected; under all other circumstances he was to retain the privilege of keeping the land at a rent of Rupees 20. Jugo Mohun held possession on these terms till his death, and after him his heirs.

Some time after Jugo Mohun's death, Bikram Singh sold an 8-annas share of his estate to Poorosuttum Doss, and gave a farming lease of the other 8 annas to Hurro Kristo Doss, and these two (who are the defendants in this case) ejected Jugo Mohun's heirs from the land on the 5th of March 1860.

The heirs sued to recover possession on the strength of the agreement of 1840, and the Civil Court's decree passed in accordance therewith; but, whilst the case was pending, they sold their right of suit to the present plaintiff, whose name was added to the record as plaintiff. He carried on the litigation, and on the 8th of March 1862 [illegible]

* 15 W. R., P. C., p. 20.

ree for possession, and subsequently 865 for mesne-profits.

n this, Huree Kristo and Poorosuttum him for arrears of rent due for the 1272-73-74 and 75 at the rate of Rupees r annum, this being the rate at which nds are said to have paid revenue to nment under a new settlement. The ctor thought that, under the circum- es, the suit was only cognizable by the Court, and dismissed it on the 16th 1868.

ree Kristo and Poorosuttum then sued present plaintiff for a kubooleut at the nced rent of Rupees 92, and on the 1st ptember 1868 got an *ex-parte* decree. Kristo Chunder (the plaintiff before ried to get this decree set aside, first, by ing for a re-hearing, and afterwards by ular appeal. He failed, however, and obliged to give the kubooleut.

getting it, the landlords sued for the of 1276 at the enhanced rate of Rupees d got a decree; and the plaintiff now this suit to get rid of the effect of evenue Court's decision of September , and to declare his right to retain his at a fixed rent of Rupees 20.

e Moonsiff held that the plaintiff had ht to bring the action; and that, as the er Ameen's decision of 1840 gave him isputed lands at a fixed rent of Rupees he defendants had no right to take from him.

e Judge, on appeal, without going the merits of the case, threw out the as barred by Section 2, Act VIII. of , holding that the suit was brought on se of action that had already been and determined by a Court of compe- jurisdiction. I do not think it neces- to go into the various points of objec- taken in the grounds of special appeal the competency of the Collector's Court, the effect of an "*ex-parte*" decree; it s to me sufficient to say that, in my ion, Section 2 does not bar a hearing of case on its merits, because in the former in the Revenue Court the question now ue was not *determined*.

e decree of the 1st of September 1868 simply for a kubooleut. No term was rently fixed by the Court, and we have been shown nothing to lead to the conclusion that anything more than a general decree for a kubooleut at Rupees 92 was either prayed for or determined. It may, therefore, be fairly assumed that the kubooleut executed was one without a term, and therefore operative as a kubooleut for the current year only; and as that year has long since expired, the kubooleut is now inoperative. The question was discussed in the case of Muddoo Ram Dey *versus* Bydnath Doss, 9 Weekly Reporter, page 592, and the ruling was that such a kubooleut was inoperative after the year was out, and did not prevent further steps being taken.

In the present case, therefore, there is no existing decision of a Court of competent jurisdiction that the plaintiff is to pay to the defendant a yearly rent of Rupees 92. The decree of 1868 only makes him liable to give a kubooleut and to pay that rent for a particular year. The assumption has not been controverted; and if the kubooleut had been given for a term of years, it would have been easy for the defendants to prove the fact by the production of the kubooleut.

This being so, there is nothing in Section 2, Act VIII. of 1859 to prevent the hearing of this suit on its merits, and I would direct the Judge to hear it accordingly.

Kemp, J.—I concur in remanding this suit to be tried on the merits. It appears to me clear that Section 2, Act VIII. of 1859, does not apply. The former suit was for the delivery of a kubooleut. No term was fixed, and as shown by my learned colleague, it may well be that the kubooleut was for the year of demand only. But apart from this consideration, I am of opinion that the cause of action in the present suit has not been "heard and determined by a Court of competent jurisdiction in any former suit between the same parties or between parties under whom they claim."

The present suit is for a declaration of the plaintiff's right to hold the lands in dispute in lieu of maintenance on payment of a quit-rent of 20 rupees to the zemindar. Such a suit could not be tried by a Collector, and it is obvious that a suit for delivery of a kubooleut and a suit of the present nature do not and cannot arise out of the same cause of action. The evidence which would support the action for a kubooleut would not support an action for the establishment of the plaintiff's title to hold these lands in

lieu of maintenance on payment of a quit-rent. Moreover, the particular point determined in the former action is not the point which will have to be determined in the present action, nor was it put in issue.

The 20th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Appeal — Jurisdiction — Section 35, Act XXIII. of 1861.

Cases Nos. 2580 to 2583 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Cuttack, dated the 8th September 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 16th June 1870.

Maharanee Adheeranee Narain Coomaree, Rajranee of Burdwan (Intervenor), *Appellant.*

versus

Purkhit Raootra (Plaintiff) and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Chunder Madhub Ghose for Appellant.

Baboos Nil Madhub Sein and *Mohendro Lall Mitter* for Respondents.

Four suits for arrears of rent, where the sum claimed in each was less than 100 rupees, and no question of title was involved, having been decided by the Deputy Collector, an appeal was preferred to the Judge. It having been found in special appeal that the Judge had no jurisdiction, and that the time for appeal had lapsed, the High Court allowed the appellant 30 days to appeal, if so advised, to the Collector.

Glover, J.—THESE were suits for arrears of rent of the year 1266. There is no occasion for us to go into particulars, inasmuch as all four cases are for sums under 100 rupees, and the decisions in each being under Section 77 of Act X. of 1859 as to who had been in *bonâ-fide* receipt and enjoyment of the rent previous to the date of the institution of the suit, the appeal lay, not to the Judge, but to the Collector.

It has been contended that the D Collector's decision is capable of being strued as a quasi decision on title: but reading the judgment, we are clear th only decision the Deputy Collector ca was on the question as to whether o the plaintiff or the intervenor, previous institution of the suit, had been in and enjoyment of the rents. The o the Judge passed in appeal must, th be set aside as being made without diction.

The question then arises as to wh this Court should exercise the power i sesses under Section 35, Act XXIII. of and make an order sending the case t only Court which could hear it on a It has been argued by the pleader fo special respondent that the wording judgment of the Lower Court was, t the least, ambiguous and sufficient to them into the error that a decision has come to on a question of title, and to in them to prefer their appeal to the Judg that supposition. He asks the Court, fore, to send the case of its own motio trial on appeal to the Collector, inasmu the special appellant could not now a himself, being barred by lapse of time. attention with reference to this point been called to two decisions of this C one in the case of Kristo Indur Roy C dhry *versus* Roopinee Bibee and othe Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 5 which case the learned Judges, finding the appeal had been preferred *bonâ fid* der a mistake to the wrong Court, or the case to be transferred to the right C that is to say, to the Court of the Coll for disposal. In the other case, J. Er and Co. *versus* Golam Khezur, in Vo IX., Weekly Reporter, page 520, the le Judges did not go quite so far, but gave the parties 20 days from the da the High Court's judgment to prefer a peal in the Court having jurisdiction.

We think that, under the circumstanc this case, the plaintiffs are entitled to consideration; and following the prec of the last of the two cases above-mentio we allow the plaintiffs 30 days from date of this judgment to prefer an app if they are advised so to do, in the C of the Collector.

With reference to costs, we think each party should pay his own.

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The 21st April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating* *f Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *ge.*

tion-award—Chapter VI., Act VIII. of 1859—Evidence.

Case No. 2059 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated 25th August 1870, affirming a deci- of the Subordinate Judge of that trict, dated the 18th February 1870.

ejoy Chunder Banerjee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant*,

versus

yrub Chunder Banerjee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

ot Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Grish Chunder Mookerjee* for Appellant.

t Motee Lall Mookerjee and *Mohen- dro Lall Shome* for Respondent.

bitration-award not being one which has been on a reference by all the parties to the suit is able of being converted into a final decree under isions of Chapter VI., Act VIII. of 1859, though idence against any party who agreed to the n.

rman, C. J.—It appears to us quite that the decisions of both the Lower have proceeded upon a mistake.

e plaintiff brought a suit to establish ght to a one-third share of certain real, and personal property, as having ded to the plaintiff and the defendants, Chunder and Shoshee Bhoosun, from ather.

defendant Beejoy Chunder in his states that he and the plaintiff were out of five brothers; that Shoshee un Banerjee, the son of a deceased er, and the widows of two others of their deceased brothers were alive; that the plaintiff, therefore, was not entitled to a one-third, but only to a one-fifth share of the property. The widows Nistarini and Kashee Monee were made parties to the suit. The case was tried, and on appeal remanded to the Subordinate Judge. After the remand, one of the defendants, *viz.*, Beejoy Gobind, applied to have the case referred to arbitration. To that the plaintiff Bhyrub Chunder Banerjee agreed. But neither the defendant Shoshee Bhoosun nor the widows, who had been added as defendants, Nistarinee and Kashee Monee, were parties to the agreement of reference.

The arbitration proceeded. The arbitrator found that the plaintiff and defendant were members of a family of five brothers, two of whom had died leaving widows.

He found that the marriage of the two deceased brothers took place long ago, and that, shortly after their marriage, the brothers died leaving widows as alleged. He found that for a long time past neither of the widows had come to the house of their husbands, and that it was not probable that they would do so. He said it was doubtful whether one of the widows was alive. He went on to say that it did not appear that the widows of the uncles of the plaintiff inherited any portion of their property; that persons, such as the parties to this suit, who are "proud of their kulinism," marry several wives; that of these wives, those who live in the house of their husbands and perform religious, social, and domestic duties in the husband's house alone get the property of their husbands, and perform their funeral ceremonies; that otherwise the custom is, although this is not in accordance with the rule of the *Dyabhaga*, that the widows of Kulins, though chaste, do not enjoy the ordinary rights of widows. The arbitrator said, if either of the widows should afterwards appear and claim it, she would be entitled to maintenance from the family-property; or if *entitled to her husband's property according to the present law*, she will get his share; and this (the arbitrator's decision) would be no bar to her rights.

After the making of this award, Kashee Monee appeared, at any rate a mookhtarnamah was put in and a vakeel appeared on her behalf, and witnesses were examined in support of her title.

The Subordinate Judge, supposing that he is giving effect to the award of the arbitrator, made a decree in favor of the plaintiff, declaring him entitled to one-third of the property as claimed by him in his plaint.

Mr. Pepper, the Judge, affirms the decision of the Subordinate Judge, also supposing that he is giving effect to the award of the arbitrator.

From that decision there is this appeal.

Upon an examination of the award, and looking at all the facts of the case as I have stated them, we are disposed to think, in the first place, that the award, not being an award upon a reference by all the parties to the suit, is not such an award as is capable of being converted into a final decree in the suit under the provisions of the 6th Chapter of Act VIII. of 1859. The award, however, is clearly evidence as against the plaintiff. Looking at the findings of the arbitrators and the evidence in the case, it is perfectly clear that the plaintiff has only established his title to one-fifth of the property in suit; because it was for the plaintiff to establish his title; and if he left it doubtful on the evidence whether the widow Nistarini was dead or not, he did not prove a fact which it was essential that he should establish in order to show that he was entitled to anything more than one-fifth of the property in suit

We do not understand the award as establishing the plaintiff's right to more than one-fifth of the property, because the arbitrator, after stating the practice of Kulins, distinctly avoids giving any decision which shall affect the rights of the widows as they exist according to Hindoo Law; and in our opinion, no decree would be a decree in accordance with that award which awarded to the plaintiff more than a one-third share of the property sued for.

The result is that the decree of the Lower Court must be reversed, and it is declared that the plaintiff has, therefore, failed to establish the claim which he sets up, which was a claim to one-third, of the property as the arbitrators have found that the defendant never dispossessed the plaintiff of the one-fifth share to which he is really entitled. It is clear that he is not entitled to any decree in his favor. The result is that, in reversing the decree of the Lower Courts, we dismiss the plaintiff's claim with costs in all the Courts.

The 21st April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Offi Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. *Judge.*

Ejectment—Mesne-profits—Liabil

Case No. 2062 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pa the Additional Judge of Nudde the 14th July 1870, affirming a of the Moonsiff of Kooshteah, de 28th August 1870.

Huruck Lall Shaha and others (Defen *Appellants,*

versus

Sreenibash Kurmokar (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. Plowden and *Baboo Jadub Ch Seal* for Appellants.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Bhugob Churn Ghose* for Respondent.

A superior holder who dispossesses a ryot is not merely for the profit which he makes by out the land, but to make good the loss which sustains by being dispossessed.

Norman, C. J.—We think that th cial appeal must be dismissed. The e shows that the dur-putneedar, joint the persons who are now found to possession of land as cultivators, sessed the holder, who was a ryot ha right of occupancy.

The Lower Courts have made th putneedar and the persons now in po jointly liable for mesne-profits.

Mr. Plowden, for the dur-putnee pellant, contends that he ought on made liable for such profits as he made; and he shows that the on which the dur-putneedar got by disp ing the former ryots was by enhanci rent from 24 rupees to 27 rupees 12 and that his client is, therefore, only for half the difference, namely, for 1 14 annas a year.

We think that a superior holde dispossesses a ryot is not liable mer the profit which he makes by letting o land at a slightly increased rent, but make good to the ryot the loss wh

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ins by having been dispossessed. Upon principle the judgment of the Lower ts is based, and we think it correct. therefore, dismiss the appeal with

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The 21st April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onoo-kool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

onal evidence—Appellate Court—Special Appeal.

Case No. 2273 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Shahabad, dated the 1st ly 1870, affirming a decision of the nsiff of Buxar, dated the 31st March 70.

ulpo Singh (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

hakoor Singh and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

boo Tarucknath Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Anund Gopal Palit for Respondents.

cial appeal will not lie from the order of an Ap- Court, refusing, in the exercise of its discretion, k additional evidence.

pherson, J.—THE first ground taken cial appeal is that the Lower Appel- Court acted wrongly in not taking the onal evidence which was tendered in Court by the defendant.

has been more than once expressly ed by this Court that, although the r Appellate Court has the power to additional evidence to be taken under n circumstances when the case is be- it on appeal, a *special* appeal will not the event of that Court, in the exercise discretion, refusing to allow such evi- to be taken—*see* the case of Golam oom, to be found in 7 Weekly Re- t, page 489.

This is really the only point raised, the other points suggested having been disposed of by the finding of the Judge that there is no proof whatever that the appellant ever satisfied himself as to the legal necessity for the loan.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur. I think the appellant has no right to say that the Lower Appellate Court was bound to receive new documentary evidence, which has not been tendered in the Court below and wrongly refused by it. Section 355 of the Code of Civil Procedure lays down that "it shall not "be competent to the parties in an appeal "to produce additional evidence in the Ap- "pellate Court whether of exhibits or wit- "nesses; but if it appear that the Lower "Court refused to admit competent evidence, "or if the Appellate Court require any "exhibits to be produced or witnesses exa- "mined to enable it to pronounce a satisfac- "tory judgment or for any other substantial "cause, the Appellate Court may allow "additional exhibits to be received and any "necessary witnesses to be examined, &c., "provided that, when additional evidence "is admitted by an Appellate Court, the "reasons for the admissions shall be re- "corded on the proceedings of such Court."

The exhibits that were tendered in this case to the Appellate Court were never tendered to the Court below, and no reason is shown why they should be admitted in the Appellate Court. The law gives a discretion to the Appellate Court to admit new evidence or not, and we in special appeal should not lightly interfere with or disturb the order of that Court. In the case of Gunga Gobind Mundul *versus* The Collector of 24-Pergunnahs,* their Lordships of the Judicial Committee have held that "the provi- "sion in the Code of Procedure which re- "quires the Judges who admit fresh evi- "dence on an appeal to record their rea- "sons, though not a condition precedent to "the reception of the evidence, is yet one "that ought at all times to be strictly com- "plied with. It is a salutary provision "which operates as a check against a too "easy reception of evidence at a late stage "of litigation." It thus appears that the Appellate Court, when it admits new evidence, is bound to record his reasons for the admission. If the Lower Appellate Court

* 7 W. R., P. C., p. 21.

did not see any good reason for the admission of evidence at such a late stage of the litigation, it was not bound to receive the exhibits tendered. In special appeal, however, we do not think we can interfere with the exercise of the discretion with which the law vests the Court of appeal.—*See* Weekly Reporter, Volume VI., page 196.

The 21st April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Nij-jote lands—Zemindar—Rights of occupancy.

Case No. 2300 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Sarun, dated the 26th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 30th April 1870.

Mr. A. Reed (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Sreekishen Singh and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Appellant.

Baboo Rughoobuns Sahoy for Respondents.

A zemindar occupying his own lands as *nij-jote* cannot, when the zemindaree passes into other hands, lay claim to them on the ground that he is a ryot with rights of occupancy.

Macpherson, J.—It appears to us that this special appeal ought to be dismissed.

The plaintiff sues to obtain possession of 26 beegahs and 17 dhoors of certain lands, which he says fell to his share under a butwarah made under Regulation XIX. of 1814. He states that a 1 anna and 9 pies share of what constituted the joint estate was assigned to the defendant on the butwarah. He further states that the land in suit has been for some time cultivated by the defendant as a proprietor, and that it having now fallen to the plaintiff's share under the butwarah, the plaintiff is entitled to recover possession.

The defendant has pleaded that he c vated the land as a ryot for many years, therefore that the plaintiff could not him.

The Lower Appellate Court says th was for the defendant to show that he c vated the land as a ryot, but that he entirely failed to do so; while, on the hand, the plaintiff has clearly shown th defendant held the land as a proprietor fact, as I understand it, the Judge that the defendant, in virtue of the which he held in the estate before the warah, occupied these particular lan *zeraat* or *nij-jote* lands. If he did so cupy them, no doubt, he cannot have good defence now as against the pla who chooses to insist upon his right to cover. The defendant having pleaded he held the land as a ryot, and not as an in virtue of his possession as a propri it lay (as the Lower Appellate Court said) upon him entirely to prove his as a ryot. The Judge finds that he failed to prove that, and I do not think we can interfere with his finding or his decree.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur. The Judge stantially finds on the evidence that defendant was not a ryot on the 26 bee claimed by him, but that he held this as his *nij-jote* or *seer* lands, he having also a co-partner with the plaintiff in zemindaree. That being so, it is clear the defendant cannot hold the land ag the will of the plaintiff, who is the adm owner of the property. A joint prop who gets a definite share of a zemin by butwarah gets the same as his sep zemindaree, and is entitled to the full complete enjoyment of his rights as a zem dar therein. If the defendant could satisfied the Lower Appellate Court th was an old ryot of this land with rig occupancy, and had paid rent for it to zemindar, he might have been entitled retain the possession of it as a ryot p ing rent to the plaintiff to whose share land has now exclusively fallen. But Courts below were not so satisfied. S being the case, it is impossible to how the defendant can retain possessio this land, and also hold exclusive po sion of the share that has been all to him as an 1 anna 9 gundahs prop of the zemindaree by the butwarah

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dar, I apprehend, cannot lay claim to wn *nij-jote* lands, on the ground that a ryot with rights of occupancy, when zemindaree has passed into the hands other. Section 6, Act X. of 1859, tly lays down that no ryot can ac- a right of occupancy in *khamar, nij- seer* land. Much less can the zemin- such a claim who cultivates his own nds as a zemindar. Whether this land was *nij-jote* land of the defend- of any other co-parcener of the ant, he could have acquired no rights upancy in regard to it. The defend- s entirely failed to prove that he was , or that he ever paid any rent for the in dispute. He has, therefore, no right pute the claim of the plaintiff.

The 21st April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

rte decisions—Review—Sections 119 and , Act VIII., 1859—Procedure—Jurisdiction lesne-profits.

Cases Nos. 2411 and 2412 of 1870.

al *Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Judge of Purneah, dated 13th August 1870, affirming a deci- of the Subordinate Judge of that trict, dated the 11th May 1870.*

oob Lall Sahoo and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

ikh Kadir Buksh and others (Defend- ants), *Respondents.*

ssrs. *R. T. Allan* and *J. S. Rochfort* for Appellants.

r. *C. Gregory* and *Baboo Boodh Sein Singh* for Respondents.

use in a petition of the words "ছানি তজবিজ" second trial, but technically "review"), and their n by the Moonsiff, do not make the petition an ion for review under Section 376, Code of Civil re, where it is clearly and distinctly one under 119 for a re-trial in the presence of the peti- r.

Where the Lower Appellate Court admitted an application under Section 119 for retrial of a case which had been decided *ex parte* by the Moonsiff, it was held to have done right in sending for the record in order that the case as a suit should be heard and tried by the Appellate Court; the object of the law being that a suit should assume a complete form and go to a full trial, and not be divided between different Courts.

Bayley, J.—THE first of these special appeals, No. 2411, contains the main points for determination in this case, and they are—

Firstly.—That under Section 27, Act X. of 1859, the registered tenant, Rujub Ali, could not, without the consent of the special appellant as the putneedar, transfer his right to the tenure to Morad Ali, and consequently the defendants deriving from Rujub Ali were not entitled to claim the same as against the special appellant. The fact, however, is that neither the register of transfer nor any other evidence is put in to show that the name Morad Ali was transferred in the place of Rujub Ali. Further, it has been found as a fact by the Lower Appellate Court that Morad Ali is a fictitious person altogether; and lastly, Kadir Buksh comes in in this case upon a sale-certificate in execution conveying to him the rights and interests of Rujub Ali. It was, therefore, for the special appellant to prove that, Morad Ali was the only person he was to recognize as tenant. As before observed, the recognition on the facts found by the Lower Appellate Court would be that of a non-existent holder.

The *second* point is, that the Lower Appellate Court was wrong in admitting a review of the Moonsiff's order rejecting the application of Kadir Buksh, dated the 14th January 1870. Now, if the facts were really so, there might have been some ground for the contention; but it appears that, although the words "ছানি তজবিজ" (*i. e.*, second trial, but technically review) are used in the petition and adopted by the Moonsiff in his order, there is nothing to make it an application for review under Section 376 of the Civil Procedure Code. The petition was clearly and distinctly one under Section 119 for re-trial of the case in the presence of the petitioner, the former judgment having been passed *ex parte* in his absence. Section 119 in distinct terms provides that in such a case, the petitioner showing good and sufficient cause for his non-attendance, the Court may admit the case to a re-hearing in the presence of both the parties.

The third ground is that the Subordinate Judge had no jurisdiction to transfer to his own file the case, as it was a miscellaneous one, and should have been kept by the Judge on his own file; but it is clear in this case that, immediately after the filing of the petition under Section 119, the whole records were ordered to be sent to the Subordinate Judge in order that the case as a suit might be heard and tried together with the analogous suit already pending before him. Accordingly, the records of the *suit, as a suit and not as a miscellaneous case,* were sent up to the Subordinate Judge and tried by him, the petitioner satisfying him under Section 119 as to the causes of his absence at the first trial. The object of the law also is that a suit should assume a complete form, and go to a full trial, not that one-half should go to one Court and the other half to another.

The fourth objection is that the Lower Appellate Court had no power to make Kadir Buksh a defendant in the suit, but the words of Section 73, Act VIII. of 1859, are "if it appeal to the Court, at any hearing "of a suit, that *all* the persons who may be "entitled to, or who claim some share or in-"terest in, the subject-matter of the suit, "and who may be likely to be affected by "the result, have not been made parties to "the suit, the Court may adjourn the hear-"ing of the suit to a future day to be fixed "by the Court, and direct that such persons "shall be made either plaintiffs or defend-"ants in the suit, as the case may be." It may be urged in this case that the order was passed after the date of the *ex-parte* decree became inoperative, and an original suit succeeded. These are the objections urged in appeal No. 2411.

In No. 2412 the sole question is, whether upon an area of 35 beegahs damages should be assessed as upon 65 beegahs. Now, on this point I need only observe that the principle on which mesne-profits should be calculated has been held to be that a party who may be found to be wrongfully in possession should pay to the party wrongfully ousted such sums as the party wrongfully in possession has collected, or might, under ordinary circumstances, with care and diligence, have collected, in the meantime of his being ousted.

In this view, I see no reason to disturb the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court, and would, therefore, dismiss both these special appeals with separate costs to the respondents appearing separately.

Paul, J.—I am also of opinion that there is no ground for interfering with the judgment of the Lower Court. The judgment appears to me to be perfectly correct.

The 21st April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Additional parties—Section 73, Act VIII. 1859—Discretion.

Case No. 2675 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Purneah, dated the 5th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 20th May 1870.

Motee Chund Doss and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Moorulee Dhur Doss and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellants.

Baboo Luckhee Churn Bose for Respondents.

The object of Section 73, Act VIII. of 1859, is to prevent needless litigation, and there are cases, *e. g.*, when it is necessary to make plaintiff's co-parceners defendants, when a Judge should exercise the discretion vested in him by that Section, even if the plaintiff omits to ask him to do so.

Bayley, J.—We think the decision of the Lower Appellate Court is wrong. We have heard the plaint in this case, and we are of opinion that there is a cause of action on the face of the plaint. The plaintiff alleges a putnee title, and prays to have a declaration of that title on the ground that it is opposed by the defendant. There is thus a cause of action to the plaintiff.

As to the second ground, we think that Section 73, Act VIII. of 1859, is expressly enacted to avoid needless litigation, and that this is one of those cases in which the Judge should exercise the discretion vested in him under that Section, even if the plaintiff

mits to ask him for it. The Lower llate Court ought, therefore, to have the admitted co-parceners of the plaint- fendants in this case. The object of ode is to simplify and shorten the liti- of Courts, whereas, if in this case we give that construction to Section 73 the respondent contends for, we evi- mar that object.

e case is remanded to be re-tried with nce to the above remarks.

ul, J.—I concur.

The 22nd April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

ndoo Law—Succession—A sister's son.

Case No. 2557 of 1870.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by the ciating Judicial Commissioner of Chota agpore, dated the 31st August 1870, rming a decision of the Moonsiff of ughoonathpore, dated the 2nd December 69.

a Ram Gossain (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

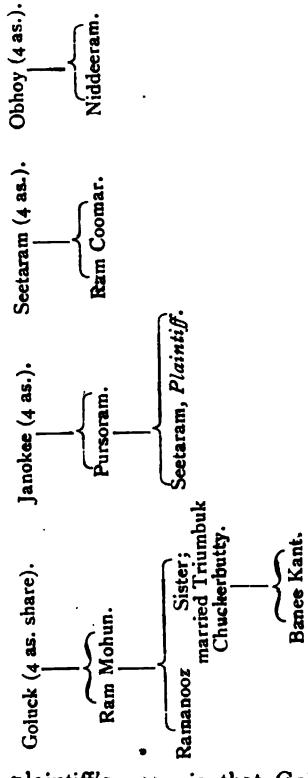
ukeer Chand Chuckerbutty and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

aboo Bungshee Dhur Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondents.

A sister's son is alive at the death of his uncle's preceding female heir who succeeded to the pro- he takes the succession.

Glover, J.—Goluck, Janokee, Seetaram, and Obhoy were four brothers joint in estate. The state of the family will be best seen from the following genealogical table.



The plaintiff's case is that Goluck's 4-annas share descended from son to grandson, and thence to the grandson's nephew, Banee Kant; that, on Banee Kant's death unmarried, his father Triumbuk succeeded, and gave the share to the father and uncle of Seetaram, from whom it came to the plaintiff; that one-third of this share was put up for sale in execution of a decree against Niddeeram, and bought by the defendant as the rights and interests of the judgment-debtor; that plaintiff made a claim under Section 246 of the Civil Procedure Code which failed, and he was, therefore, obliged to bring the present regular suit for declaration of his right to that portion of the family-property sold as Niddeeram's, but which portion was never divided amongst the family, but was given by the heir to plaintiff's father and uncle.

The defence was that Ramanooz's share came to the other members of the family, Banee Kant having predeceased his uncle; and that Niddeeram took a one-third share

of the 4 annas left by Ramanooz, which share was properly sold as the interest of the judgment-debtor.

Both Lower Courts have decided the case adversely to the plaintiff, on the ground that, as Banee Kant died before Ramanooz, Triumbuk never succeeded to the property, and consequently could not have given a good title to the plaintiff's father and uncle.

It is contended in special appeal that the real issue between the parties has not been tried; that it was immaterial, according to Hindoo Law, whether or not Banee Kant was born after the death of Ramanooz, if he were alive at the time the last preceding female heir died; and that, if it were proved that Banee Kant was alive when Ramanooz's mother or grandmother, both of whom are stated to have succeeded to the property, died, he would have been entitled to the succession; and if so, his (Banee Kant's) father, Triumbuk, would have inherited, and the plaintiff's title be established.

We think that the Lower Courts have mistaken the issue, or rather have only partially decided it. They both considered it sufficient to bar the plaintiff's claim, if it were shown that Ramanooz died before Banee Kant was born—ignoring apparently the fact that, if Banee Kant was alive at the death of the female heir of Ramanooz, he would, according to Hindoo Law, take the succession. (*See* Vyavasta Durpana, No. 96, page 234, and the cases bearing on it. *See* also Rash Beharee Roy *versus* Nimaye Churn, Gap No. Weekly Reporter 223.)

It is argued by the pleader for the special respondent that, even if this be a correct view of the Hindoo Law, the plaintiff has no right to take advantage of it (*vide* case of Eshan Chunder, 6 Weekly Reporter 57, Privy Council Rulings), inasmuch as it was never his case; the point on which issue was joined being whether Banee Kant was or was not born at the time of his uncle Ramanooz's death. To some extent this contention is correct, but it must not be forgotten that the point for decision was, in the first instance, recorded in very general terms, *viz.*, who was the nearest heir of Ramanooz, nor that the Judicial Commissioner, in remanding the case to the Moonsiff for trial on the merits, restricted that officer to the issue "whether or not Banee Kant was born before his uncle died." It appears to us, therefore, to have been as mu[illegible] action of the Court itself as of the p[illegible] that the question of inheritance was [illegible] and it would not, we think, be fair to d[illegible] the plaintiff of the privilege of pro[illegible] he can, that Banee Kant was alive w[illegible] heir of Ramanooz, who succeeded to h[illegible] perty, died. We are not unmindful [illegible] Privy Council ruling above quoted, [illegible] does not, we think, apply to the c[illegible] stances of the present case.

We remand the case, therefore, [illegible] finding on this issue. If it be decid[illegible] favor of the plaintiff, nothing more n[illegible] done; if adversely to him, the Court [illegible] consider and decide the plaintiff's pl[illegible] he had been in adverse possession o[illegible] disputed property for more than 12 [illegible] before the sale to the defendants, and [illegible] thereby got a title.

Costs will follow the result.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Offi[illegible] Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. [illegible] *Judge.*

Tenancy—Solehnamah—Mourosee mok[illegible] rights.

Case No. 2079 of 1870 under Act X. of [illegible]

Special Appeal from a decision passed by [illegible] Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the [illegible] July 1870, affirming a decision of [illegible] Deputy Collector of Buseerhaut, dated [illegible] 31st March 1870.

Bhoobun Mohinee Dossee and other[illegible] (Plaintiffs), *Appellants*,

versus

Dhonaye Karigur and another (Defendan[illegible] *Respondents.*

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Bh[illegible] anee Churn Dutt* for Appellants.

Baboo Jogendronath Bose for Respondent[illegible]

A member of a Hindoo family, who had the m[illegible] ment of the ancestral property, was sued by [illegible] of the tenants for illegal distraint. Plaintiff pl[illegible] pottah in which the rent was described as a fixed [illegible]

h

e tenancy an old and existing tenancy. The re- that suit was a solehnamah or compromise be- the parties, in which the manager fixed or con- the rent of the tenure, and agreed that that rent not be enhanced.

s that the effect of the solehnamah was to confer e tenant and his descendants a mourosee mokur- ght in the land at a fixed rent, as far as the r was capable of conferring such a right.

rman, C. J.—We do not think it is ary to call upon the other side.

is is a suit for arrears of rent at an ced rate after notice. The plaintiffs e that the defendants hold 170 beegahs d in Mouzah Kamarparah, for which have hitherto paid as rent 161 rupees 4 and 23 *arrees* of dhan. The defend- contend that they hold the land at a rent, and that the plaintiffs are not ed to enhance.

e facts are as follow: One Luckhee in Bose had three sons, Radha Mohun, o Mohun, and Juggut Chunder. Radha n left a son Sisteedhur, whose son was sh Chunder, and the plaintiffs are the s of Kylash Chunder. Kristo Mohun son Huro Gobind and six other sons. t Chunder left two sons, Prosunno ar and another. Luckhee Narain, being iginal owner of the land within which efendants' tenure exists, appears to have succeeded in the possession and manage- of the property by Kristo Mohun, e son Huro Gobind afterwards got sion of and managed the property.

e defendants are in possession of a h fixing their rent, dated 21st Chyet , in which the rental of their land is d to be Rupees 150·4 sicca. The rent scribed in that pottah as a fixed rent, the tenancy of the defendants as an old existing tenancy. In 1844, Asseen gur, the ancestor of the present de- ants, brought a suit against Huro Gobind illegal distraint. In that suit he put in pottah of Chyet 1238, and the suit tuated in a solehnamah or compromise, d 20th September 1845, by which the es compromised their differences, and o Gobind "fixed" or "confirmed" (it btful which is the exact signification e word) the rent of that tenure at 161 s and 4 annas, including *parbunee* t of cess) and one *biss* and three *arrees* of paddy. By that instrument, he agreed that that rent should not be enhanced; and therefore the effect of that solehnamah is to confer upon the defendants a mourosee mokurruree right in the land at a fixed rent, so far as Huro Gobind was capable of conferring such right upon them.

It appears that, before the date of the suit by Asseen Karigur in 1844, Huro Gobind had put Sisteedhur, the son of his uncle Radha Mohun, out of possession. On the 15th September 1848, Sisteedhur obtained a decree for possession of his one-third share against his co-sharer Huro Gobind. From the date of that decree down to the commencement of this suit, neither Sisteedhur, nor his son, nor the plaintiffs have ever called in question the arrangement entered into by Huro Gobind with the defendants fixing an increased rent of Rupees 161-4 annas and one *biss* and three *arrees* of paddy as the rent of the tenure; and it appears that the plaintiffs have constantly received that rent.

We are of opinion that this fact affords very strong evidence that Sisteedhur and his son confirmed and ratified the arrangement made by their co-sharer Huro Gobind by the solehnamah of the 20th September 1845. There is no doubt that, in receiving the new rent and 7 *arrees* of paddy from this land, they must have known perfectly what was the arrangement made in the suit against Huro Gobind by which that rent was fixed. Had they refused to abide by that arrangement, and had they not accepted the rent fixed in the solehnamah, it is clear that the ancestors of the defendants would have been in a position to set up as against them their rights under the pottah of 1238, and we should be doing the greatest injustice to the defendants if the plaintiffs, who, for so many years, have received the benefit of the agreement contained in the solehnamah, could at this distance of time disavow the authority of Huro Gobind to enter into it. If this were permitted, the effect might be that the plaintiffs would be able to defeat the ancient mourosee mokurruree rights of the defendants under a document which, for all that appears, would have been valid and enforcible but for the compromise by which it was put an end to. For these reasons, we are of opinion that the decision of the Judge confirming the arrangement contained in the solehnamah is correct, and that the appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Invalid lakheraj—Resumption—Limitation.

Case No. 2123 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Furreedpore, dated the 10th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 29th November 1869.

Gunga Ram Chowdhry and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Huree Nath Chowdhry and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Jadub Chunder Seal* for Appellants.

Baboo Bungshee Dhur Sein for Respondents.

In a suit by a dur-putneedar for the resumption of land alleged to be held as lakheraj under an invalid title, limitation must be calculated, not from the date of the creation of his dur-putnee title, but from that of possession of the party from whom the putneedar originally derived his title.

Ainslie, J.—The question in this special appeal is, as to what is the period of limitation to be applied to suits now instituted to resume lands alleged to be held as lakheraj under invalid titles. The remarks at page 205 of the second edition of Thomson's Law of Limitation so clearly set forth the present state of the law on the subject that there is nothing to add to them. The tenure in dispute has been admittedly in existence for 54 years. The plaintiff is a dur-putneedar, and in calculating limitation we must not calculate from the date of the creation of his dur-putnee title, but we must go back to the date on which the party, from whom the putneedar originally derived his title, obtained possession of this estate. It is not attempted to be shown that the title originated within 12 years.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and [illegible] kool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Joint-debtors — Right of action — Fr[illegible] Issues.

Case No. 2236 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision p[illegible] the Subordinate Judge of Sa[illegible], the 22nd July 1870, affirming a [illegible] of the Moonsiff of Chuprah, de[illegible] 22nd February 1870.

Sheo Churn Narain Singh (Defend[illegible] *Appellant,*

versus

Chukraree Pershad Narain Singh and [illegible] (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter f[illegible] Appellant.

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry [illegible] *Runghoobuns Sahoy* for Respondent[illegible]

Where property in which two members of a [illegible] family are jointly interested is sold in order [illegible] money for the payment of a debt jointly contra[illegible] both, the son of one of them cannot sue to rec[illegible] own, or his own and his father's share in the ab[illegible] the other.

In such a suit, if it is alleged that the father [illegible] nected with the institution of the suit with a[illegible] defraud creditors, an important issue is raised [illegible] should be tried and decided.

Macpherson, J.—In this case, we [illegible] opinion that the first and second gr[illegible] taken in the written memorandum of a[illegible] are good grounds, and that the pla[illegible] suit ought to be dismissed.

The case is exactly parallel to a[illegible] reported in 12 Weekly Reporter, pag[illegible] in which it was held that, the p[illegible] having belonged jointly to the pl[illegible] father and uncle (the father's brother) [illegible] plaintiff could not sue to recover eit[illegible] own share, or his own and his father's s[illegible] in the absence of the father's brother, [illegible] jointly with the father, was interested in [illegible] property, and jointly with the father [illegible] contracted the debt to raise money for [illegible] payment of which the estate was sold.

As to the third ground of appeal, [illegible] is "that it was distinctly pleaded th[illegible] "suit was not *bona fide*, but brought by [illegible]

ther who is living in the same mess with son, the plaintiff, and at his father's pense, to defraud the joint dues of cre-ors; and evidence was adduced to prove e facts; the Lower Appellate Court not at all considered this important tion." I may say that the allegation the father's connection with the institu-and prosecution of this suit raised an tant issue in the case, which ought to been distinctly tried and decided.

to the fourth ground of appeal, we t say whether the Court below was or wrong in holding that the evidence ot prove that the debts were contracted cessary purposes. But as the decrees Lower Courts are set aside, and the is dismissed, the finding of the Court as to the necessity for incurring the al loan becomes unimportant and of fect.

lowing the course adopted in the case red to above, we reverse the decree of ower Appellate Court, and dism ss the iff's suit with costs in all the Courts.

okerjee, J.—I concur.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Admissions.

Case No. 2419 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated 31st August 1870, reversing a sion of the Moonsiff of Sulkhea, the 29th June 1870.

Grish Chunder Lahoree (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Shama Churn Sandyal (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

M. M. Dalla and *Baboo Jadub Chunder Seal* for Respondent.

An admission made in a verified petition by an intervenor in an Act X. suit, and repeated in a verified plaint filed by him in a regular suit, was held to be binding in a subsequent suit on the party who made it.

Kemp, J.—THE plaintiff in this case is the special appellant. He sued for recovery of possession of a moiety in 5 cottahs of land, together with the buildings standing thereon. The first Court gave him a decree, relying upon the admission of the defendant, Shama Churn, in the Act X. suit as well as in the plaint filed by him in the Civil Court. In appeal, this decision was reversed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly. It appears that the gist of his decision is that, because the defendant has been occupying this house for some time, therefore it would be hard upon him, although the plaintiff is the rightful heir, to turn him out of the house. The law-point is not disputed by the pleaders; it is clear that the plaintiff must succeed as heir, if Ram Dhunee died leaving her son Tara Chand.

It appears that the plaintiff sued some ryots for rent of the lands left by Ram Dhunee. The defendant Shama Churn intervened in that case, and in a verified petition put in by him he said that Ram Dhunee died leaving her son Tara Chand as her heir. Shama Churn, the defendant, having failed in that Act X. suit, instituted a regular suit; and in the verified plaint filed by him in that suit, he repeated that assertion that Ram Dhunee had left Tara Chand as her heir. In special appeal, it is contended that these admissions are binding upon the defendant, and that, if they are not conclusive, the Subordinate Judge ought, at all events, to have tested the evidence by these admissions and taken them into consideration. On the other side it is contended that such admissions are not binding, and two decisions have been brought to our notice: one to be found in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 286; and the other in Volume XII., page 39. The first decision, that in Volume VI., is to this effect, that a party is not bound by an erroneous admission in a petition. In that decision the Judges held that the statement made by the parties in that petition was a simple error, and therefore the plaintiff was not bound by a pure error in a petition; and we are not shown in the decision whether the petition alluded to was a verified petition.

The next decision is to the effect that a written statement is not legal evidence. In that case, it appears that the written state-

ment was sought to be made use of as evidence against the co-sharers of the defendants, and the Judges held that the written statement of one party is no evidence against the other party.

In the case before us, we have the defendant, on failing in his intervention in the Act X. suit, resorting to a regular suit in which there is a verified statement in the plaint, not put in by a karpurdaz, but by himself, stating that Ram Dhunee died leaving her son Tara Chand.

We, therefore, think with the first Court that the defendant was bound by these admissions made by him in the Act X. suit, and more formally afterwards in the regular suit. We, therefore, reverse the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, restore and confirm the decision of the first Court, and decree this appeal with all costs payable by the special respondent.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Notice of enhancement—Ejectment.

Case No. 2660 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 8th December 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 20th September 1870.

Nubo Kishen Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Kalachand Mookerjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Radhika Churn Mitter* for Respondent.

A childless Hindoo widow granted a pottah to defendant. On her death, there was a dispute as to the heirship to her husband; and the right of plaintiff's vendor having been declared, the latter brought a suit against defendant for a kubooleut at enhanced rates of rent. Defendant disputed the claim, setting up the [illegible] the opposite party, but the suit was decreed [illegible] extent of the rate of rent admitted by def[illegible] Subsequently plaintiff issued a notice of enhan[illegible] and, defendant not coming to terms, sued to [illegible] the pottah, and obtain possession.

HELD that the decree obtained by plaintiff's [illegible] created a new contract between the parties [illegible] kubooleut, by which defendant was entitled to [illegible] the rent admitted by him till plaintiff took [illegible] steps. And that plaintiff's vendor having con[illegible] whole title to plaintiff, who then gave defend[illegible] tinct notice, plaintiff was entitled to succeed in [illegible] sent suit.

Case at 12 W. R., p. 299, distinguished.

Kemp, J.—THIS was a suit to set [illegible] pottah granted by a childless widow, [illegible] obtain possession of a tank, compris[illegible] cottahs of land, valued at 150 rupe[illegible] appears that Kashee Monee, a chi[illegible] Hindoo widow, on the 30th of Kartick [illegible] granted a mourosee pottah of this di[illegible] tank to the defendant Kalachand Mo[illegible] padhya, receiving from him a bonus [illegible] rupees. The widow died in Aughran [illegible] There was some contention betwee[illegible] Kristo, the plaintiff's vendor, and [illegible] Soondurree as to who was the heir [illegible] widow's husband, and that questio[illegible] finally decided in favor of Raj [illegible] Raj Kristo, immediately upon his [illegible] being declared, brought a suit against [illegible] chand Mookhopadhya, the defenda[illegible] enhance the rent of this disputed [illegible] claiming to receive a kubooleut at 5 [illegible] for the 4 cottahs, which would be [illegible] rate of 20 rupees per beegah. Th[illegible] fendant Kalachand in that suit, i[illegible] of acknowledging the plaintiff's title [illegible] had been judicially established by the [illegible] sion of a competent Court, chose t[illegible] pute it, and to set up the title of Bama [illegible] durree. He also set up his pottah, a[illegible] result of that suit was that the Court de[illegible] that the plaintiff in that suit, Raj Kris[illegible] not entitled to obtain a kubooleut at [illegible] hanced rate claimed, but that he [illegible] receive the rent at the rate admitted [illegible] defendant, *namely*, Rupees 1-8 on the [illegible] cottahs occupied by the tank. This de[illegible] having created a new contract betwee[illegible] parties, the plaintiff, Raj Kristo's ve[illegible] continued to receive at the rate of Rupe[illegible] for a certain period. Subsequently, [illegible] 1276, he issued a notice on the de[illegible] ant intimating to him that in future he [illegible] have to pay 7 rupees for this tank, [illegible] of the rent hitherto paid of Rupees 1-[illegible]

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ling to do so that he would have to . The defendant not coming to terms, intiff brings this suit to set aside the granted by Kashee Monee, the child-idow, and to eject the defendant.

much stress has been laid by the plead-the defendant upon the question of the ant having expended money upon this e may here observe, before entering into the case, that the defendant in en statement took exception to the on put upon the tank by the plaintiff, aid that it was not worth more at the t than 50 rupees.

h Courts have found against the plaint-d dismissed his suit. The grounds upon the Lower Appellate Court has found defendant are, first, that he has acquired of occupancy, inasmuch as he has en-possession of the disputed tank for up-of 15 years; second, that there has been cation of the pottah of Kashee Monee e plaintiff's vendor and by the plaintiff lf; and, third, that, according to the of the conveyance by Rajkristo to the iff, the plaintiff is not entitled to sue t the defendant.

the first ground, we may say that the er for the respondent has admitted that and, not being held for agricultural or ultural purposes, is not land which s within the purview of Section 6 of X.; and he distinctly stated that he did ly on that Section, but that he relied the conduct of the plaintiff's vendor, as as on the conduct of the plaintiff himself the death of the grantor, Kashee Monee, took place in 1269. He also said that ood or fell according to the interpreta-which this Bench might put upon decision to be found in Volume XII., ly Reporter, page 299, in the case of esshur Bhuttobyal *versus* Rajah Body-Narain Roy. In that case Mr. Justice by held that it seemed to him that, "if person, being aware that another is in ession claiming to hold under a lease, cepts rent from him, he does thereby ify the lease so far as he has the power do so;" and his Lordship further says "if a lessor wishes to protect himself om the ordinary inference that by the ceptance of the rent he recognizes e lease, he is bound to give distinct tice to the tenant that he intends to pute the validity of the lease under ich he claims to hold; because, if he "intends to dispute the tenant's title, he "ought to leave to the tenant an oppor-"tunity of refusing payment of the rent "under the lease."

Now, in this case, we think that, looking to the conduct of the plaintiff's vendor, it is clear to us that this case does not come within the remarks above quoted. In the present case, the plaintiff's vendor, immediately the success opened out to him, that is to say, as soon as he was declared to be the rightful heir to this property, did give the defendant, the ryot, distinct notice of his intention to dispute the validity of the lease under which the defendant claimed to hold. He brought a suit, immediately on his acquiring the right to this property, to enhance the rent, but was unsuccessful in the suit. That suit, however, as already observed, created a new contract as between the parties, a contract under the kubooleut, by which the defendant was declared to be entitled to hold the lands at the rent admitted by him until the plaintiff took further steps. The plaintiff, the vendee of Rajkristo, did give the defendant an opportunity of accepting his terms or refusing payment on those terms; and therefore it is clear that he has "given distinct notice to the tenant of his intention to dispute the validity of the lease;" and further that he has given the tenant an opportunity of accepting or refusing the terms upon which he was willing to permit the tenant to hold on, by the notice to the defendant which has already been mentioned above. The defendant, although he knew by the former litigation in 1863 of the intention of the plaintiff to enhance, and in the face of the notice enabling him to hold the lands at 7 rupees for good, chose to come to no terms with his landlord.

We, therefore, think that the decision which has been quoted in Vol. XII. does not apply to this case.

The next point is whether the conveyance from Rajkristo to the plaintiff entitles the plaintiff to bring the present suit. That conveyance has been read to us, and we find that it passes the whole title of Rajkristo. There is no question that Rajkristo could have brought this suit; and having conveyed his whole title to the plaintiff, we think that the plaintiff is in a position to bring this suit.

We reverse the decision of the Courts below, and decree the plaintiff's suit with costs of the Lower Courts and of this Court.

The 25th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Resumption-decrees—Regulation II., 1819—Presumptions—Errors of procedure—Invalid decrees.

Case No. 1967 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 13th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of Meherpore, dated the 26th May 1870.

Modhoo Soodun Sagoory and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants.*

versus

Nepal Khan and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Grish Chunder Mookerjee* for Appellants.

Baboo Doorga Dass Dutt for Respondents.

In a suit for resumption where plaintiff stated that defendant was holding the land in dispute under a pretended lakheraj title, without specifying whether that title was anterior or posterior to December 1790, it was found that defendant had not proved that his alleged lakheraj existed prior to that date, and the suit was decreed.

HELD that, from the fact of the Court having adopted a procedure which is only sanctioned in the special cases provided for by Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, it was not a necessary inference that the decree was made under that Regulation.

HELD that, even if made under Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, a resumption-decree bearing an earlier date than the Full Bench Ruling of 25th January 1865 (2 Weekly Reporter, page 91) would not establish that the grant resumed was of earlier date than 1st December 1790.

Decrees made under Regulation II. of 1819 prior to the 25th January 1865, for the resumption of grants of later date than 1st December 1790, cannot be held to be void; for error in procedure in a trial does not *per se* render void a decree which on the face of it is one the Court was competent to make.

Ainslie, J.—PLAINTIFF sues to obtain from the defendant a kubooleut for certain lands which were resumed as invalid lakheraj under a decree dated 14th March 1862.

Defendant denies that the relation of landlord and tenant exists.

Both the Courts below have based their decision dismissing the suit on a ruling of this Court, reported in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 442, in which it was held that, land is resumed as invalid lakheraj Section 13, Regulation II. of 1819, the per procedure for assessing it is that down in Section 9, Regulation XI 1793.

Plaintiff appeals specially, and conten the resumption decree was not made Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819.

Apparently in the case cited the purported to have been made unde particular Regulation, though from terms of the judgment it was attemp be shown that that Regulation did not apply. The Court remarked that ther bound to take the decree as it stands had nothing to do with the reason on the judgment which led to that decre based. It was also observed that, lands in question were really alienat lakheraj subsequently to the 1st Dece 1790, the Court which passed the decre no jurisdiction to pass it under the sions of Section 30, Regulation I 1819.

In the present case, there is nothin the face of the decree to show that made under Regulation II. of 1819, is further urged that the plaint in the was not framed as a plaint under that lation. Plaintiff contends that the made the decree under the general p of the Court to hear and determine suits. On the other hand, it is adm that the Court adopted a procedure is only sanctioned in the special cases ded for by Section 30, Regulation II. of and from this it is argued that the d was made under that Regulation.

This inference is not one which m necessity, be drawn. But even if I th myself bound to take this decree as a made under Section 30, Regulation 1819, I could not concur in holdin this would of itself fix the date and ter of the grant resumed, and determi procedure to be adopted for assessin lands. It must be borne in mind that the Full Bench ruling in Sonatun Gh Case, 2 Weekly Reporter, p. 91, decide 25th January it was supposed* all resumption were triable Section 30, Re tion II. of

*See 2 Weekly Reporter, page 259. "Previous to the enactment of Act X., &c. ..... (down to) had grown into a custom."

Three out of seven Judges who sat

ing of that case maintained this view he law, and the contrary view was only ned by a majority of one. Therefore, not think that we can infer from the of a decree of earlier date than 1865, when professedly made under Regula- II. of 1819, that the resumed grant was rlier date than 1st December 1790. equently, when the nature of the title side is not stated on the face of the e, we are entitled to look to the judg- (and record if necessary) to ascertain if we do so in the case in hand, we that it was not alleged by plaintiff or n by defendant that the grant resumed he decree was in existence prior to 1st mber 1790.

though the Full Bench decision deter- s that decrees cannot properly be made r Regulation II. of 1819 for the resump- of grants of later date than 1st De- ber 1790, it certainly did not, and could lay down that decrees had never been e as under that Regulation for the re- ption of such grants; the contrary was itted.

do not think we can hold all such ees to be void, or that we are bound to that the existence of a decree under lation II. of 1819 establishes that the resumed was of earlier date than 1st ember 1790. Granting that the Courts d under a mistaken view of the law, annot assume for the purpose of making decrees technically good a state of which in many cases is contradicted he records. We must take the decrees e find them, and as doubtless they were nded to be, as establishing resumptions he particular tenures found existing in case, whether they were created before ter 1st December 1790. If the decrees be impeached and set aside, well and ; but if they cannot, or so long as they not set aside, we must take them to be ing as they stand, and not resort to a on contradicted by the records, and as- e that they establish what, in the view the law taken when they were passed, were never intended or supposed to blish. If the resumption-decree now re us professed to be a decree under lation II. of 1819, I think we should be ged to refer the case to a Full Bench; as I have already said, it does not on ce of it appear to be anything but a e made in the exercise of the ordinary diction of the Court.

It is true that the Court did adopt a procedure only applicable to suits under the special law; but as the decree does not show that it was made under that law—and therefore, according to recent construction of the law, wrongly made—I think we are bound to presume that it was rightly made; and, if we are to qualify facts to suit our views of the law, that it should be treated as a decree on confession of judgment, which substantially it was, as soon as the defendant in answer to the notice to disclose his title failed to show any grant earlier than 1st December 1790. At any rate, error in procedure in the trial does not *per se* render void a decree, which, on the face of it, is one which the Court was competent to make. Taking this, then, to be a good decree for the resumption of lakheraj land held under a grant of later date than 1790 made in the exercise of the ordinary jurisdiction of the Court, I hold that the plaintiff is entitled to recover the rents of the resumed land and to institute a suit under Clause 1, Section 23, Act X. of 1859, for the determination of the rate of rent to be paid and to obtain a kubooleut accordingly. In this view, I would remand the case to the first Court for trial on the merits.

The appellant should get the costs of this Court and of the Lower Appellate Court, costs in the first Court being left as costs in the suit.

Paul, J.—I agree with Mr. Justice Ainslie in holding, for the reasons assigned by him and under the circumstances of this case, that no presumption arises that the decree of March 1862 was passed under the provisions of Regulation II. of 1819.

The plaintiff in his plaint, filed in the suit in which the last-mentioned decree was made, stated that the defendant was holding the lands in dispute under a pretended lakheraj title, without specifying whether that title was alleged to be anterior or posterior to 1790, and prayed for the resumption of the lands so held.

In the judgment on which the decree of March 1862 is based, it is found that the defendant had not proved that this alleged lakheraj existed prior to 1790. Under these circumstances, it cannot be contended either that the plaintiff admitted or the defendant substantiated the existence of the alleged lakheraj prior to 1790.

Having regard to the silence of the plaint and decree in the resumption-suit with

reference to Regulation II. of 1819, it would be unfair and unreasonable to infer, merely from the reference made to the Collector with a view to ascertain the validity or otherwise of the lakheraj title pleaded, that the proceedings in which the decree of March 1862 was pronounced were taken under Regulation II. of 1819. The decree of March 1862, as it appears to me, was one for resumption passed in a suit in which there was no admission of the existence of the defendant's alleged lakheraj prior to 1790, and it is final between the parties. The result of such finality is that the plaintiff is entitled to assess the lands in the possession of the defendant, and his suit is consequently maintainable.

I concur in the propriety of the order made by Mr. Justice Ainslie.

The 25th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Joint Hindoo family — Partition — Re-union — Rights of co-parceners—Inheritance—Hindoo widow.

Case No. 2100 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Chittagong, dated the 28th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Howlah, dated the 19th February 1870.

Ram Huree Surmah (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Trihee Ram Surmah (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Aukhil Chunder Sein for Respondent.

The special rule of Hindoo Law under which a re-united parcener takes the heritage to the exclusion of a separate claimant of an equal decree, whether brothers of the whole or half blood, or sons of such brothers or uncles, applies only in cases where after separation the co-parceners re-unite through affection, and not only dwell together in the same house, but with entire community of interest on the understanding that whatever belongs to one belongs to the other.

The mere fact of two brothers living in the same dwelling-house is not conclusive proof of their living as a re-united or joint family. Even without act tition by metes and bounds, if two co-parcen the rents and profits of their shares without them into a common fund or box, it must be there was a partition between them, and that not members of a joint undivided Hindoo fam

In order to determine who is the heir to a Hindoo who left a widow as his heir at the ti death, it is not sufficient to see who was his sapinda at the time of his death—it must be was the nearest sapinda alive at the tim death of the widow.

Mookerjee, J.—This case must manded to the Court of first instan re-trial. The dispute in this case to be about the estate of one Ram M the paternal uncle of plaintiff and def No. 1. The defendant No. 2, bei grandson of another brother of Ram M is excluded from inheritance by the and defendant No. 1, who are nearer das to the deceased. It appears th Manicko left a widow Sharoda, who the 5th Assin 1231 M. Plaintiff cl moiety of the estate of Ram Manicko brother's son. Defendant No. 1 den the property ever belonged to the de and took an alternative plea to the that the deceased Ram Manicko havin as a re-united or associated brothe defendant's father Ram Bullub, he, t fendant, is entitled under the Hindo to the whole of the inheritance to the sion of plaintiff, who is the son of a se brother of the deceased.

The Court of first instance dismis plaintiff's suit, on the ground that " " fairly proved by the evidence of t " nesses of both the parties that Ram " and Ram Manicko were two uterin " thers; that they jointly held their shar " that no division took place between The Court held, therefore, "that defen " rights of heirship to the disputed p " are preferable to those of plaintiff."

On appeal, the Judge confirmed th sion, holding that the evidence in t proved "that Ram Manicko and Ra " lub lived in commensality up to th " of the former's death, and that Ra " nicko's widow lived in commensality " the surviving brother Ram Bullub."

It is contended before us that the fi of the Courts below are insufficient the Hindoo Law to establish an ex right in the defendant to the propert by Ram Manicko. It is said that it m that Ram Manicko and Ram Bullub together in commensality; but as it

h

ted fact that Ram Manicko left a widow heir, it should have been seen whether, time of her death, she was or was not as a re-united co-parcener with the dant No. 1, the nephew of the deceased Manicko.

ppears that, at the time when , the widow of Ram Manicko, died, all others of that individual were dead. not appear either in the pleadings or vidence when Ram Bullub, the father defendant, died; nor does it appear defendant, as a re-united co-sharer, ed to live with the widow in a f re-union down to the period of her

authorities on the Hindoo Law are y clear on the subject of the rights of ociated brother in preference to that of sociated one. The only clear distinc- hey make is between separated and ed parceners, and the definition given ihaspati of the term re-union is- "He being once separated, dwells again h affection with his father, brother, or al uncle, is termed re-united." This of Vrihaspati is explained and inter- d by the author of the Dayabhaga in 30, Section 1, Chapter XI., in the fol- g manner: "That persons who by have common rights in the wealth ac- ed by the father and grandfather, as fa- (and son), brothers, uncle (and nephew), re-united, when, after having made a tion, they live together, through mu- affection, as inhabitants of the same e, annulling the previous partition, and lating that 'the property which is e is mine:' and 'that which is mine ine.'"

s, it appears that a special rule is laid by the Hindoo Law for cases in which aration once takes place, and then ards the co-parceners re-unite through ion, and not only dwell together in the house, but there takes place an entire unity of interest among them on an standing that "whatever is thine is e, and whatever is mine is thine." In a case only the law says that a "re- d parcener shall take the heritage" in rence to, and in utter exclusion of, a ted claimant of an equal degree, er brothers of the whole or half blood, of such brothers or uncles.

arties in this case are nephews of the ietor Ram Manicko; they are therefore claimants in an equal degree of affinity to him. Now, before one of them can be preferred to the other and adjudged the whole estate of Ram Manicko, it should be enquired into and found whether the one was a re-united parcener according to the meaning of that term given in the Hindoo Law, and whether the re-union, if there was any, subsisted down to the time of the death of the widow.

Now, it is an undoubted principle of Hindoo Law that, in order to determine who is the heir to a deceased Hindoo, who left a widow as his heir at the time of his death, the status of the family at the time of the death of that widow is to be looked at, and not the status at the time of the death of the proprietor. If *A*, a proprietor of an estate, died leaving two uterine brothers and no widow, the brothers would undoubtedly be entitled to succeed to his estate; but if *A* also leaves a widow, the widow would take the estate as the surviving half of her deceased husband, and enjoy it as his representative. Now, if one of these brothers die in the lifetime of this widow leaving a son, that son would not inherit the estate, but the surviving brother would get the entire estate after the death of the widow. It is, therefore, clear that, in order to find the true heir to a Hindoo proprietor on the death of his widow, it is not sufficient to see who was his nearest sapinda at the time of his death, but it must be seen who was his nearest sapinda alive at the time of the death of his widow.

In this case, the Lower Courts have only found that "Ram Manicko lived with his "brother, Ram Bullub, in commensality up "to the date of the former's (Ram Manicko's) "death, and that Ram Manicko's widow "lived on in commensality with the surviv- "ing brother, Ram Bullub." If the widow had died during the lifetime of Ram Bullub, this finding might have been sufficient to entitle Ram Manicko as a re-united parcener to obtain the property of his brother; but it is an admitted fact that Ram Bullub died before the widow, and the defendant in this case is his son. It does not appear at all whether the family continued to live in the same state in which it was at the time of Ram Bullub's death.

The contention in this case is between two nephews or brother's sons of Ram Manicko, who are sapindas of an equal affinity. Under the ordinary Hindoo Law, both of them would have been equally entitled to the estate if there was no question of re-union.

In order to defeat the claims of the plaintiff, the defendant must prove clearly that the widow continued to live with him in the same state of re-union in which her husband lived with defendant's father. It is, therefore, incumbent on the defendant to show that not only was there a re-union between the husband of the widow and defendant's father, but that the widow lived in that state of re-union with him down to the time of her death

It may be that the widow, though she lived as a member of a re-united family with Ram Bullub, did not so live with the defendant. She had an undoubted right to a partition and a separate enjoyment of the share of her husband; and it may also be the case that, at the period of her demise, she was actually living separate from both the nephews of her husband. I do not think that in that case the defendant could have claimed the property of her husband to the exclusion of the plaintiff, who would ordinarily be entitled to share with him the heritage of their common uncle.

I would, therefore, remand the case to the Court of first instance to lay down an issue, as to whether the widow of Ram Manicko lived in a state of re-union with defendant, as did her husband with Ram Bullub, his brother, or whether she, at the time of her death, lived separate from him, though living in the same family-house. The Moonsiff should, after framing this issue, give full opportunity to the parties to adduce evidence on this issue, and then decide the case according to the result of that enquiry and with advertence to the remarks made above. It has been stated in the course of the argument that the evidence adduced in this case merely goes to show that Ram Manicko and his widow lived in the same house with Ram Bullub, but that there is no evidence to show that they lived as members of an united or joint Hindoo family. The Moonsiff should bear in mind that the mere fact of two brothers living in the same dwelling-house is not conclusive proof of their living as a re-united or joint family. It must be shown that there was an actual re-union, and that the husband, and after his death the widow, lived with the defendant as members of a joint family, and that there was a community of interest between them. Even if there had been no actual partition by metes and bounds, yet if the two co-parceners had enjoyed the rents and profits of their respective shares, and did not throw them into a common fund or box as is the case i joint families, it must be held that the a partition between them, and that they not be said to be members of a joint un ed Hindoo family.

The costs of this appeal will be co the case, and will abide the final resul

Jackson, J.—I concur.

The 25th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. G *Judges.*

Evidence—Boundary-dispute.

Case No. 2700 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pas the Subordinate Judge of West wan, dated the 20th September affirming a decision of the Moons Bishtopore, dated the 26th April 187

Radha Churn Gangooly (Defenda *Appellant,*

versus

Anund Sein (Plaintiff), *Respondent*

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for App

Baboo Petumber Chatterjee for Respondent.

In a suit to recover possession of land contai certain Government resumed mehal, where defe plea was that the land had been purchased by an execution-sale for arrears of rent as belongi jungle mehal, the Lower Appellate Court refused ant's application for a comparison with the m chittahs made on the occasion of a boundary between the zemindar and Government, when been decided in a local inquiry that the land be not to the resumed mehal, but to the jungle m

HELD that the Subordinate Judge ought to h tertained the application, the evidence proba ing been the very best.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this sues to recover possession of 7 beegah land as contained in Dâg No. 52 of Government resumed mehal Mouzah K bun No. 549. He alleges that the was the jummae tenure of one Mo Soodun Lohar, from whom he purchas on the 2nd of Aghrain 1273, and th retained possession until ousted by the fendant No. 1, who purchased the land sale in execution of a rent-decree obta

e defendant No. 2 against the defend- No. 3. The plaintiff made a claim Section 246 of the Code of Civil dure in which he failed, and he there- rings this suit to establish his title.

defendant, after pleading that the barred by limitation, states that the forms part of the jungle mehal Ghat nuggur; that it was held heretofore e Khatoo Lohar under a pottah from Rajah of Burdwan; that Khatoo fell arrears, and in execution of a decree st him this land was put up for sale urchased by the defendant. He also that in a suit No. 1 of 1860 between overnment and the Rajah of Burdwan, decided on a local enquiry that the in dispute did not belong to resumed No. 549, but to jungle mehal Ghat nuggur.

h the Courts below decided the case vor of the plaintiff, holding that the rement-chittahs made in the resump- nit brought by Government against kherajdars in possession were suffi- to prove that the disputed land was led within Dâg No 52, and appertained hal No. 549, and therefore belonged to laintiff.

contended in special appeal that the n's report and the resumption-chittahs resumption-proceedings between the nment and the lakherajdar could not ken as evidence against the present dant, he being not a party to the suit, laiming, moreover, to hold the land as ging to a different mouzah; that there existence the very best evidence by it could have been shown whether lly did belong to the one mouzah or other, which evidence ought to have produced and acted upon; that in undary-suit between Government and Rajah of Burdwan, through whom de- t claims, such chittahs were drawn up, aps made; and that, by comparing the now in dispute with the maps and hs then made, it would be easy to see which boundary the disputed land

e special appellant further contended he had made an application for such arison to the Court below, but that the dinate Judge had refused to entertain ecause he, special appellant, had been to point out in his petition the pre- dâg in which the disputed land was to be found. It appears to us that this objection is a reasonable one, and should be allowed. If there was anything on the record to show that the Subordinate Judge and the Moonsiff had decided the case in favor of the plaintiff on anything else but the Ameen's report and the chittahs in the resumption-case; if, that is to say, there was any evidence taken for the express purpose of proving the fact as to which of these two mouzahs the disputed land belongs to, it might not, perhaps, be necessary to remand the case; but where the very best evidence was proffered by the defendant—evidence which would have conclusively disposed of the case between the parties, inasmuch as the defendant claims through the Rajah of Burdwan, and would be bound by any previous decision which had previously bound him, we think that the Subordinate Judge ought to have entertained the application made by the defendant before him, and to have decided the dispute between the parties on a reference to the chittahs drawn up in the suit No. 1. The chittahs in the resumption-suit manifestly could not be evidence of any high character against the present defendant, even if it was evidence at all.

We, therefore, remand the case to the Court below in order that an Ameen may be deputed to ascertain by a local enquiry and from an inspection of the maps and chittahs made in suit No. 1, whether these disputed 7 beegahs of land fell within the boundary of Kateebun or within the boundary of the jungle mehal, as laid down in the decision of the suit between the Rajah of Burdwan and Government.

Costs to follow the result.

The 26th August 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Putnee lease—Construction—Sale of putnee—Regulation VIII., 1819.

Case No. 2089 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 10th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 22nd January 1870.

Mohadeb Mundul (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Mr. H. Cowell, Receiver of the estate of Baboo Promothonath Dey (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Respondent.

A putnee lease, containing words to the effect that the putneedar could give no dur-putnee or mokurruree lease at a jumma less than the jumma of the putnee, was held to confer no such power as that described in Clause 1, Section 11, Regulation VIII. of 1819.

A portion of a putnee tenure cannot be sold under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819; and if an auction-purchaser acquires any of the rights of the putneedar, he is bound by the acts of the latter as regards the grant of leases.

Loch, J.—Baboo Joy Chunder Paul Chowdhry, the proprietor of 8-annas of Pergunnah Haldah, on the 22nd of Pous 1244, made a putnee-settlement of his entire rights in favor of Messrs. Cockerell and Company, at a jumma of Rupees 22,800. Baboo Promothonath Dey subsequently became the owner of a 4-annas share of a moiety of this zemindaree, and subsequently Mr. Doyle purchased the putnee from the representatives of Cockerell and Company, and on the 9th Jeyt 1274 gave a mokurruree of 4½ of the disputed mouzahs to the defendant in this case.

In 1275 Promothonath Dey applied to the Collector for the sale of his share of the putnee tenure on account of arrears of rent of 1274, and a moiety of the putnee was sold on the 1st Jeyt 1275 (corresponding with 1868), and was purchased by him. He now sues to set aside the mokurruree granted by Doyle to the defendant; and both the Lower Courts have held that, as an auction-purchaser under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, he is entitled to set aside the lease granted by Doyle; and it is alleged that Doyle had no authority to make such leases.

In special appeal, it is urged, first of all, that the putneedar had authority to grant the mokurruree; and we are referred to certain words in that putnee lease, which are to the effect that the putneedar could give no dur-putnee or mokurruree at a jumma less than the jumma of the putnee. But this is very different from the power described in Clause 1, Section 11 of Regulation VIII. of 1819, by which the right to make incumbrances has been expressly vested in the putneedar. There is no such power given him by the lease.

It is then contended by the special appellant that the sale could not have been held under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, because under the provisions of that law the *whole* of the putnee tenure, and not a portion of it only, must be sold, and the sale of a portion is, in fact, no sale.

The respondent's pleader admits the force of this argument, and endeavours to meet it by saying that the old putnee-engagement was set aside by a fresh engagement which was substituted, as was shown by the putneedar paying one-half of the rent to one zemindar and the other half to the other zemindar. But the respondent is unable to show that any fresh lease was drawn up, or that the engagement amounted to anything more than an arrangement entered into for the convenience of the parties in the payment of the rent.

We think it quite clear that, according to law, a portion of a putnee tenure cannot be sold under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, and therefore the auction-purchaser of such portion under the provisions of that law would acquire nothing. If by the sale he has acquired any of the rights of the putneedar, he must be bound by the acts of the putneedar who gave the lease to the defendant.

It appears to me, for these reasons, that this suit is bad, and the judgment of the Lower Courts must be set aside, and the suit dismissed with all costs. The defendant will be restored to possession, and will recover the mesne-profits for the period during which he was out of possession with interest, as also all costs realized by plaintiffs in execution of their decree.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 26th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Joint family—Presumption of Hindoo Law.

Case No. 2129 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 28th July 1870, modifying a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 21st March 1870.

Gunga Dhur Chatterjee (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Soorjo Nath Chatterjee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

d

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Appellant.

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Respondent.

Where a member of a family claims an exclusive right to a house which he has built, the presumption of Hindoo Law against his claim arises only if the family is joint, having possession of joint property.

Loch, J.—In this case there appears to be no family-property from which the funds could have been procured for the building of the house. I think, therefore, that the presumption of Hindoo Law does not arise, and that the Judge is wrong in throwing the burden of proof on the defendant in this case.

The plaintiff states that, during his residence up-country, he remitted monthly sums of between 25 and 30 rupees. But this is not found by the Lower Courts, and the Judge himself says that the evidence as to the source from where the money came is very vague. But he throws the onus on the defendant, because, as he says, the parties being members of a joint Hindoo family, when the defendant claimed an exclusive right he was bound to prove it.

Looking to the fact, which is apparent, that there was no ancestral source of wealth, that plaintiff was absent for many years, and has failed to prove that he made remittances which were to be used for the purpose of building the house, I think that this was not a correct course, and that the decision of the Lower Appellate Court should be reversed, and that of the first Court restored with all costs.

Paul, J.—This case strikes me in three different lights.

First.—Supposing that the presumption of Hindoo Law did arise to an insignificant extent, I think the defendant has sufficiently discharged himself of the onus of proof, by proving that the house was built by him, and that he paid the money.

Secondly.—Looking to the broad facts of this case, I agree with my learned colleague in saying that, even if the presumption of Hindoo Law did arise, it should, for the purposes of justice, be restricted to its very strictest limit; and I consider that the presumption of Hindoo Law arises only when the family is joint, having possession of joint property.

In the present case, Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter has shown satisfactorily that the only thing which the defendant received from the plaintiff was the sum of Rupees 5 monthly, and that this would be quite insufficient for the purpose of erecting the house in question.

Thirdly.—I say that, if the onus does not fall on the defendant, the plaintiff has got to prove his case. He says that the house was built from the remittances which he sent. But there is no proof of these remittances having been sent. They must have been forwarded by letter, and there must have been some acknowledgment of them. In fact, there is no proof whatever by which any connection between the alleged remittances and the building of the house can be established, neither does it appear that the plaintiff was ever consulted or in any way interested in the erection of the house. For these reasons, I think that the case was very properly decided by the Subordinate Judge, Baboo Kylash Chunder Deb, and that his decision has been incorrectly set aside by the Judge. I would reverse the decree of the Lower Appellate Court, and restore that of the first Court with all costs.

The 26th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Summons—Commission—Rights of parties.

Case No 2340 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Dacca, dated the 23rd July 1870, affirming a decision of the Additional Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 27th September 1869.

Huree Dass Bysack (Defendant), *Appellant.*

versus

Meer Moazzum Hossein (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Lulect Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Doorga Mohun Doss* for Respondent.

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Respondent.

A putnee lease, containing words to the effect that the putneedar could give no dur-putnee or mokurruree lease at a jumma less than the jumma of the putnee, was held to confer no such power as that described in Clause 1, Section 11, Regulation VIII. of 1819.

A portion of a putnee tenure cannot be sold under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819; and if an auction-purchaser acquires any of the rights of the putneedar, he is bound by the acts of the latter as regards the grant of leases.

Loch, J.—BABOO JOY CHUNDER PAUL CHOWDHRY, the proprietor of 8-annas of Pergunnah Haldah, on the 22nd of Pous 1244, made a putnee-settlement of his entire rights in favor of Messrs. Cockerell and Company, at a jumma of Rupees 22,800. Baboo Promothonath Dey subsequently became the owner of a 4-annas share of a moiety of this zemindaree, and subsequently Mr. Doyle purchased the putnee from the representatives of Cockerell and Company, and on the 9th Jeyt 1274 gave a mokurruree of 4½ of the disputed mouzahs to the defendant in this case.

In 1275 Promothonath Dey applied to the Collector for the sale of his share of the putnee tenure on account of arrears of rent of 1274, and a moiety of the putnee was sold on the 1st Jeyt 1275 (corresponding with 1868), and was purchased by him. He now sues to set aside the mokurruree granted by Doyle to the defendant; and both the Lower Courts have held that, as an auction-purchaser under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, he is entitled to set aside the lease granted by Doyle; and it is alleged that Doyle had no authority to make such leases.

In special appeal, it is urged, first of all, that the putneedar had authority to grant the mokurruree; and we are referred to certain words in that putnee lease, which are to the effect that the putneedar could give no dur-putnee or mokurruree at a jumma less than the jumma of the putnee. But this is very different from the power described in Clause 1, Section 11 of Regulation VIII. of 1819, by which the right to make incumbrances has been expressly vested in the putneedar. There is no such power given him by the lease.

It is then contended by the special appellant that the sale could not have been held under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, because under the provisions of that law the *whole* of the putnee tenure, and not a portion of it only, must be sold, and the sale of a portion is, in fact, no sale.

The respondent's pleader admits the force of this argument, and endeavours to meet it by saying that the old putnee-engagement was set aside by a fresh engagement which was substituted, as was shown by the putneedar paying one-half of the rent to one zemindar and the other half to the other zemindar. But the respondent is unable to show that any fresh lease was drawn up, or that the engagement amounted to anything more than an arrangement entered into for the convenience of the parties in the payment of the rent.

We think it quite clear that, according to law, a portion of a putnee tenure cannot be sold under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, and therefore the auction-purchaser of such portion under the provisions of that law would acquire nothing. If by the sale he has acquired any of the rights of the putneedar, he must be bound by the acts of the putneedar who gave the lease to the defendant.

It appears to me, for these reasons, that this suit is bad, and the judgment of the Lower Courts must be set aside, and the suit dismissed with all costs. The defendant will be restored to possession, and will recover the mesne-profits for the period during which he was out of possession with interest, as also all costs realized by plaintiffs in execution of their decree.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 26th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Joint family—Presumption of Hindoo Law.

Case No. 2129 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 28th July 1870, modifying a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 21st March 1870.

Gunga Dhur Chatterjee (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Soorjo Nath Chatterjee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

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Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Appellant.

Baboo Nil Madhub Sein for Respondent.

Where a member of a family claims an exclusive right to a house which he has built, the presumption of Hindoo Law against his claim arises only if the family is joint, having possession of joint property.

Loch, J.—In this case there appears to be no family-property from which the funds could have been procured for the building of the house. I think, therefore, that the presumption of Hindoo Law does not arise, and that the Judge is wrong in throwing the burden of proof on the defendant in this case.

The plaintiff states that, during his residence up-country, he remitted monthly sums of between 25 and 30 rupees. But this is not found by the Lower Courts, and the Judge himself says that the evidence as to the source from where the money came is very vague. But he throws the onus on the defendant, because, as he says, the parties being members of a joint Hindoo family, when the defendant claimed an exclusive right he was bound to prove it.

Looking to the fact, which is apparent, that there was no ancestral source of wealth, that plaintiff was absent for many years, and has failed to prove that he made remittances which were to be used for the purpose of building the house, I think that this was not a correct course, and that the decision of the Lower Appellate Court should be reversed, and that of the first Court restored with all costs.

Paul, J.—This case strikes me in three different lights.

First.—Supposing that the presumption of Hindoo Law did arise to an insignificant extent, I think the defendant has sufficiently discharged himself of the onus of proof, by proving that the house was built by him, and that he paid the money.

Secondly.—Looking to the broad facts of this case, I agree with my learned colleague in saying that, even if the presumption of Hindoo Law did arise, it should, for the purposes of justice, be restricted to its very strictest limit: and I consider that the presumption of Hindoo Law arises only when the family is joint, having possession of joint property.

In the present case, Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter has shown satisfactorily that the only thing which the defendant received from the plaintiff was the sum of Rupees 5 monthly, and that this would be quite insufficient for the purpose of erecting the house in question.

Thirdly.—I say that, if the onus does not fall on the defendant, the plaintiff has got to prove his case. He says that the house was built from the remittances which he sent. But there is no proof of these remittances having been sent. They must have been forwarded by letter, and there must have been some acknowledgment of them. In fact, there is no proof whatever by which any connection between the alleged remittances and the building of the house can be established, neither does it appear that the plaintiff was ever consulted or in any way interested in the erection of the house. For these reasons, I think that the case was very properly decided by the Subordinate Judge, Baboo Kylash Chunder Deb, and that his decision has been incorrectly set aside by the Judge. I would reverse the decree of the Lower Appellate Court, and restore that of the first Court with all costs.

The 26th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Summons—Commission—Rights of parties.

Case No 2340 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Dacca, dated the 23rd July 1870, affirming a decision of the Additional Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 27th September 1869.

Huree Dass Bysack (Defendant), *Appellant.*

versus

Meer Moazzum Hossein (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Lulcet Chunder Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Doorga Mohun Doss* for Respondent.

A party to a suit has a legal right to apply to a Court for a summons to a witness, or for a commission to examine a witness. The Court should grant the application as a matter of course, without considering whether the applicant can derive any advantage therefrom.

Jackson, J.—We think that this case must be remanded to the Judge in order that the witnesses whom the defendant cited to prove that Abdool Mujid was a partner in the shop should be examined either on commission, or it would be better perhaps if he should summon them to Dacca and examine them himself.

The Judge says: "I do not see what "useful end would be attained by examining "the witnesses of whose non-examination "the appellant makes complaint." It is very difficult to say what might be the result of their evidence. We understand that they were called to prove the partnership between the defendant and Abdool Mujid. The evidence which has been given to prove that partnership has been held by the Judge insufficient, and it is just possible that these witnesses might give evidence to prove that which the Judge has held not sufficiently proved yet.

As to the right of the defendant to have these witnesses summoned, we find on the record that he applied that a commission might issue for their examination on the 16th September. The day fixed for the hearing of the case was the 24th September, and the witnesses were not wholly examined until the 27th September. Although it is evident that even in this application there was a good deal of delay, as it might have been made nearly a fortnight sooner, still there was time for the commission to issue,and the defendant was, therefore, entitled to have that commission issued. The facts of the case are somewhat peculiar, and it is just possible that the evidence of these witnesses may throw light upon it We think that the defendant is entitled to have them examined before the question is decided against him.

We, therefore, remand this case for such examination of the witnesses. After hearing that evidence, the Lower Appellate Court will pass a fresh decision in the case.

Costs of this appeal will abide the result.

Ainslie, J.—I wish to add that, in my opinion, it is not the business of the Court, on receiving an application for a summons to a witness or for a commission to examine a witness, to consider whether it is likely that the summons can be served, or the commission executed so as to bring the wi or his deposition before the Court on th fixed for the hearing of the suit. A p to a suit has a legal right to ask the a ance of the Court in these matters. an Court should grant it as a matter of c It is for the party, and not for the Co consider whether he can derive any a tage from his application. If he has it so long that he fails to get the executed in sufficient time, he, of course, take the consequences of his delay, an Court will not adjourn the case to re his neglect. But unless it appears c that it is not only improbable, but impo for the process to be effectually issued application should certainly be complied Indeed, I have great doubts wheth should not be complied with in every stance, as it may happen that the case not be called up for hearing on the originally fixed, and possibly the witne the return to the commission might Court on the day to which it may be journed. If a party to a suit thinks it his while to incur the expense of taking a process on the chance of deriving be from it, I would not prevent his doing I would only take care that he did not the late issue of the process as an excu delaying the final hearing of the case.

I would call the attention of the C below to the remarks of Mr. Justice Jackson in page 419, 11 Weekly Report

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The 27th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Mortgage by tenants—Liabilities of mortgagees.

Case No. 1888 of 1870 under Act X. of 1

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Judge of Backergunge, dated the August 1870, modifying a decision of Deputy Collector of Perozepore, dated 24th February 1870.

Lalla Mitterjeet Singh (Plaintiff). *Appell*

versus

Raj Chunder Roy and others (Defendant *Respondents.*

Baboo Anund Chunder Ghossal for Appellant.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondents.

re tenants, after mortgaging their land, agree to increased rent to their landlord, who is ignorant mortgage, and the property is afterwards sold faction of the mortgage-debt, the zemindar is to recover the increased rent from the tenants the party who has succeeded to their rights rests.

J.—THE contention in this case is er the rent payable to the zemindar is es 155 or Rupees 115. It appears that, the year 1269, the defendant-tenants, the Dutts, had paid to the zemindar upees 10 annas and some odd gundahs r; that in Pous 1269 they mortgaged property to one Raj Chunder Roy, the l respondent before us; that subse- to the date of their mortgage, they d to pay the zemindar an increased of Rupees 10 *per annum;* and the ze- ar has realized the increased rent of es 125 for two or three years from that

Chunder got a decree against the in 1270, and put up the pleaded pro- to sale, and purchased it himself in ; and the contention before us is that nnot be bound by the acts of the mort- r, inasmuch as the rents had been in- ed by the mortgagor after the property been mortgaged to him.

appears to me that, so far as the zemin- is concerned, this contention will not d. The zemindar, as is admitted, was rant of the mortgage. He was dealing tenants in possession. They had ap- d to him to have their names registered the place of the party whose name was in the books, namely, Ram Churn tacharjee; and being unable to pay Ru- 500 which he demanded for this trans- they agreed to pay an increased rent upees 10 *per annum.* It is found by the er Courts that they did agree to this ease.

Under the circumstances in which the indar was placed with respect to the ants, it appears to me that anything ich the tenants might have done injurious the mortgagee, the zemindar had nothing do with that; and if the tenants agreed pay an increased rent, he is entitled to over that rent from them or from the rty who has succeeded to their rights and interests. For these reasons, I would reverse the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, and restore that of the first Court with all costs.

Paul, J.—In this case Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter, who appears for the respondent, admits that the decision of the Lower Appellate Court can only be supported on the construction which can be put upon a certain decree. He candidly admits that that decree has not been filed, and practically this admission is equal to an abandoning of his contention.

I, therefore, agree with my learned colleague in reversing the decision of the Lower Appellate Court, and restoring and affirming that of the first Court with all costs.

The 27th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Application for partial execution—Proceedings.

Case No. 482 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 27th October 1870, affirming an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 2nd March 1870.

Koylas Nath Ghose (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Nitya Shama Dossee (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Baboo Gopal Lall Mitter for Appellant.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Respondent.

An application to execute an aliquot part of a decree, though irregular and ineffectual for the purpose, must, if made *bonâ fide* under a misapprehension of the law, be regarded as a proceeeding which keeps the decree alive.

Glover, J.—THIS is an application for execution of a decree of which the present judgment-creditors are the purchasers. The purchase was made in 1865. The first

execution was taken out by the original decree-holder in June 1861, and further proceedings were taken from time to time up to the 10th of December 1864, and there is no question that up to that date everything was conducted according to the regular procedure. From the date of their purchase, the two decree-holders made several attempts acting separately, each one on account of his own share, to get execution of the decree, and the proceedings in connection therewith went on up to June 1869, when, on a special appeal decided by Justices L. S. Jackson and Markby, it was held that these purchasers of an aliquot part of a decree were not entitled to take out execution in the form in which they had taken it. Upon this, the two purchasers joined together, and took out one execution as for the whole decree against the judgment-debtors. That application was made on the 9th of July 1869. The Judge, whilst finding that up to 1865 effectual proceedings had been taken and money paid for the purpose of executing the decree, holds that, in accordance with a decision of this Court of the 15th of March 1869, in the case of Poorno Chunder Mookerjee and others *versus* Sharoda Churn Roy, to be found in Volume XI., Weekly Reporter, page 241, execution could not proceed upon an application made with a view to execute an aliquot part of a decree, and that therefore all proceedings between December 1864 and the last application for execution in 1869 were null and void, and consequently that the present purchasers of the decree were barred by the Statute of Limitation, more than three years having elapsed since any *bonâ-fide* proceeding had been taken to keep the decree alive.

This decision appears to us to be wrong. In the first place, the order passed by the learned Judges of this Court in special appeal on the 24th of June 1869 merely decided that the application for execution could not proceed in its then separate form, and the decision of the 15th March 1869 on which the Judge places special reliance distinctly left this question of limitation undetermined. The learned Judges say that with reference to whether the proceedings which had been taken would be effectual proceedings to keep the decree in force so as to save the decree-holder from the operation of Sections 20 and 21 of Act XIV. of 1859, was a question with which they did not deal. The decision went simply on the question as to whether the proceedings in execution were legal.

There is another case which the J thinks to have been set aside by the r last quoted, namely, the case of Roy F nath Chowdhry and others *versus* Pran Roy Chowdhry,* in which it is dis ly laid down that an application mad one or more out of several decree-holde an application made in the interests and that every proceeding taken by on proceeding taken for the benefit of enforce the judgment or to keep it in This decision, which has, we may ob been followed in more than one instanc certainly not set aside or overruled b decision in the case of Poorno Ch Mookerjee. It is clear that all that Judges meant to lay down in that case that the purchaser of an aliquot sha part of a decree could not take out ex tion-proceedings for the particular he had purchased; but they did not that, if such proceedings were taken a misapprehension of the law, but wi *bonâ-fide* endeavour to recover the am due, the decree-holders might not be cessful when the proceedings were i matized by all the purchasers joining gether in one application for execu In the present case, therefore, the poi be decided was whether the previous ceedings of the purchasers, admitting to have been irregular, were *bonâ-fide* ceedings taken to keep the decree aliv appears that money was paid by parties on several occasions between and 1867, and it is nowhere contended these payments on the part of the purch were not *bonâ fide*. On the contrary, th objection made to them in the petiti appeal to the Judge was that they illegal. This being so, and taking whole tenor of the Judge's decision consideration, we think that there *quasi* finding that these proceedings *bonâ fide*, and the Judge was quite ju in presuming them to have been so wh *mala fides* was insinuated. If the pro ings taken between 1865 and 1867 *bonâ fide*, it is clear that the present cation by both the purchasers of the de jointly is an application made within 3 of the last proceedings taken in execu and therefore is within time.

The decision of the Judge below is th fore reversed, and execution will be allo to proceed in the usual way.

* 8 W. R., p. 100.

The 27th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

ction—Illegal Distraint—Section 23, Act X., 1859.

Case No. 1831 of 1870.

Appeal from a decision passed by Deputy Commissioner of Maunbhoom, the 28th March 1870, affirming a ion of the Moonsiff of Rughoonath-, dated the 30th September 1869.

Ram Bishto Acharjee (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

t Lall Tewarry (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

Pitambur Chatterjee for Respondent.

t by a ryot for the recovery of the value of his y illegally distrained as the property of another me falling under Section 23, Act X. of 1859, and be brought in the Civil Court.

er, J.—THE point for decision in this appeal is whether the Civil Court isdiction to try the suit.

plaintiff sued for the value of cer- addy said to have been illegally dis- d by the defendant-landlord for rent y a third party.

appears that the plaintiff brought a nder Act X. of 1859, Section 139, in which was dismissed.

ere was considerable argument as to was the nature of this suit. The y Commissioner in his judgment styles claim preferred on the ground that rop distrained belonged to the plaintiff, not to the distrainee." To clear up the the record of the case was sent for, it appears from it that the suit was one illegal distraint" under Section 139, X. of 1859.

the case of Joy Lall Shah *versus* nath Paul Chowdhry, 9 Weekly Reporter 162, the question as to whether a party between whom and the distrainer there existed no relationship of landlord and tenant could sue for damages in a Civil Court was much discussed, and it was decided that such a suit would fall either within Section 139 or Section 143 of Act X. of 1859, and would, under the Clauses of Section 23, be cognizable solely by a Revenue Court.

The precedent* quoted by the Deputy Commissioner has been virtually overruled by later decisions.

We think that the ruling in Joy Lall Shah *versus* Brojonath Paul is the correct one, and that the plaintiff's suit for the recovery of the value of his property, illegally distrained as the property of another ryot, was one falling under the provisions of Section 23, Act X. of 1859, and could not have been brought in the Civil Court.

The appeal must be allowed and the order of both Lower Courts reversed with costs.

The 27th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Authority of Full Bench Rulings—Age of majority—Section 26, Act XL. of 1858—Admissions.

Case No. 2073 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Dacca, dated the 16th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Furreedpore, dated the 26th January 1870.

Tarinee Pershad Sein (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Dwarkanath Rukheet (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. Mun Mohun Ghose and *Baboo Bungshee Dhur Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar* for Respondent.

* 1 W. R., p. 36.

In preference to rulings of the Bombay High Court, the High Court at Fort William held itself bound to follow a ruling of its own Full Bench to the effect that the provision as to majority in Section 26, Act XL. of 1858, applies, though proceedings may not have been taken in the Civil Court for the care of the person or protection of the property of one (not being an European British subject) who has attained the age of 18 years.

A plaintiff abandoning his own case, and falling back on the admission of the defendant, is bound to take those admissions as they stand, and in their entirety.

Ainslie, J.—DWARKANATH RUKHEET sues on his own account and as guardian of his minor brother Mohima Chunder Rukheet to recover possession from the defendant, Tarinee Pershad Sein, of a 6-annas share of an ancestral jote and a 10-annas share of the family khanabaree out of 8 annas of the former and 12 annas of the latter, which have come into the possession of the latter under a conveyance purporting to be executed by all the members of the family.

The first Court decreed the claim as stated by the plaintiff.

The Subordinate Judge of Furreedpore, on appeal by the defendant, disallowed the claim as to 2 annas of each property, but affirmed the decree as to the remainder.

The defendant appeals to this Court, and the first ground urged is that the suit was wrongly brought by Dwarkanath as guardian, inasmuch as it has been found that his brother Mohima has attained the age of 16 years, and under Hindoo Law is not a minor.

The question of majority is in this case one of procedure only. The plaintiff has been allowed to proceed with the suit under Section 3, Act XL. of 1858, and by Section 26 of that Act it is enacted that "for the purposes of this Act every person shall be held to be a minor who has not attained the age of 18 years;" and it was held by a Full Bench of this Court (10 Weekly Reporter, Full Bench Rulings, page 36) that this provision applies, though proceedings may not have been taken in the Civil Court for the care of the person or protection of the property of a person (not being a European British subject) who has not attained the age of 18 years.

Mr. Ghose for the special appellant has referred to two Bombay cases reported in the 2nd and 5th Volumes of the Bombay Reports at pp. 329 and 95 respectively; but we think we are bound to follow the ruling of the Full Bench of this Court on the point.

The objection on the merits is that Lower Appellate Court has come to no p finding as to the state of the family.

It appears that there were two co Gour and Nihal Chand, who held 12 of the jote or homestead, Gour own annas of each and Nihal Chand 8 an each.

Gour had 4 sons who lived to from him, Puddo Lochun, Suroop, Coomar, and Bunsee Buddun. The pl are the sons of Puddo Lochun. The that their father and his brother S lived in union while the other two br lived separate. Consequently, on the of Suroop, his one-fourth share of father's estate was taken by Puddo Lo to the exclusion of Ram Coomar and B Buddun. Thus Puddo Lochun b possessed of 2 annas of both jote and h stead.

It is further alleged that Puddo L acquired by purchase from Nihal a f share of 2 annas in each, and that Monee, his wife and mother of the pla subsequently purchased 2 annas of the and 6 annas of the homestead from c persons who had bought the same Nihal Chand.

These acquisitions are stated by plaintiffs to have been made entirely on separate account by their father and mo

The plaintiffs' share, as stated by comes to 6 annas of the jote and 10 of the homestead.

	Jote.	*Hom*
Puddo Lochun's share inherited from his father	1 anna	1
Ditto inherited from Suroop ...	1 anna	1
Ditto purchased by himself ...	2 annas	2
Ditto ditto by Indro Monee ...	2 annas	6
Total ...	6 annas.	10

The defendant, on the other hand, that Puddo Lochun and Suroop liv union, but separate from the other bro and states that the whole family held 6 of the jote and homestead, which, on death of Suroop, was divisible in equal between the three survivors, and that survivors jointly purchased 2 annas of jote and 6 annas of the homestead from representatives of Nihal Chand, and held in common 8 annas of the former 12 annas of the latter, which they con to him by the deed of sale put forw the suit. He also denied that Puddo chun purchased a 2-annas share from

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he Subordinate Judge has found that ntiff has entirely failed to prove any pur-e by Puddo Lochun.

e then goes on to find as follows: "Both plaintiff and defendant have admitted with the exception of the aforesaid 2-as share, the share of the plaintiff's r Puddo Lochun amounted to 2 annas, lusive of the share enjoyed by Suroop. nce, under the aforesaid circumstance, I not see the necessity for determining in case whether the said Puddo Lochun ined the entire share enjoyed by Su-p or the one-third of the same."

is true that the plaintiff claims 2 annas f 4 annas, and that the defendant assigns m 2 annas out of 6 annas, and thus there difference in the actual quantity of the to which plaintiff is entitled under r allegation; but there is a most material rence in the quality; in one case it is a ate estate—in the other, a share of a estate.

the plaintiff is to have the benefit of the ndant's admission, he must take it in its ty, and accept the share offered to him, hare of an undivided estate. The Sub-nate Judge has treated the admission of efendant as conclusive; but if the plaint-ere to abandon his own case, and fall on the admissions of the defendant, he be bound to take them as they stand, y so taking them he would, on his own admit that, at least up to the death of p, the family remained undivided. Now, ink it is quite clear that the plaintiff intended to take up this position, and the Subordinate Judge, in refusing to aintiff's case as stated by him, and re-upon defendant's statement as an ad-on, has taken up ground for the plaint-ich he (plaintiff) would be the last to y himself. No doubt, the Subordinate did not do this intentionally. He s to have thought there was no objec-to taking defendant's statements piece-, holding him to what suited his pur-, and refusing to notice what was ad-; but in this he was clearly wrong. judgment on this point, as it stands, is ded solely on defendant's admission. admission, if properly and fairly con-d and deliberately accepted, involves cceptance of the allegation that the y was undivided at least up to the death oop, and this would have a most im-nt bearing on the remaining part of the case, namely, the question whether the purchase in Indro Monee's name was really a separate purchase by her or a joint purchase by the family. This was entirely overlooked by the Subordinate Judge.

If the plaintiff deliberately elects to stand by the admission of the defendant, taking the whole of it as it stands, the Lower Appellate Court will have to re-try the question as to this last purchase, assuming as a fact that the family was undivided at the date of Suroop's death, and to find whether plaintiff has proved that there was an actual separation in estate between the date of Suroop's death and the date of Indro Monee's purchase.

If the plaintiff, on the other hand, declines to take the 2 annas assigned to him in defendant's answer as a part of a joint estate, it will be necessary for the Judge to try whether Puddo Lochun and Suroop were living separate in estate from their other two brothers, and whether the former consequently took exclusive possession of the 1-anna share of Suroop. If the plaintiff cannot establish this, he will, as regards this part of the case, only be entitled to one-third of 4 annas stated by him to be the total ancestral estate of his father and uncle, for the Subordinate Judge has already found as a fact that Puddo Lochun's purchase from Nihal Chand is not in any way established; and as plaintiff has framed his title specifically in one way, he cannot, on failure to establish his own case, fall back upon a case taken from defendant's statements unless he consents to take it in its entirety; and this, we are supposing, he refuses to do.

Plaintiff has stated the ancestral estate to be limited to 4 annas, and by this statement he is bound, and beyond this he cannot go. He claims one half; if he can establish a right to this, well and good. If not, he can only get a one-third share.

If plaintiff does not succeed in proving the separation in estate of Suroop and Puddo Lochun from the other brothers, the Subordinate Judge will have to re-consider the judgment as to Indro Monee's purchase, for the suit will then stand as in the first-considered case of plaintiff agreeing to accept defendant's admissions in their entirety. There will be no proof of separation up to Suroop's death, and plaintiff will have to establish the subsequent separation by

evidence sufficient to rebut the presumption of union.

In conclusion, we would remark that the finding of the Judge on the point of separation is, as it stands, very incomplete and unsatisfactory. He says nothing about separation in estate, and speaks only of separation in food. Then the date of separation, if there really was any, is only given as "from a long time." But as there is nothing in the judgment to show when Suroop died or when the sale to Indro Monee took place, and for all we know these may have been a still longer time ago, it cannot be said that there is any valid reason given for the conclusion: "Hence the plea set up by the "defendant Tarinee Pershad that the said "shares were purchased with joint funds is "not fit to be admitted."

The case is remanded for re-trial with reference to the above remarks. Costs to follow the result.

The 27th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Section 19, Act X., 1859—Section 20, Act VIII. (B. C.), 1859—Landlord and tenant—Notice of relinquishment — Holding over — Onus probandi.

Case No. 2417 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Sarun, dated the 26th August 1870, modifying a decision of the Moonsiff of Chuprah, dated the 18th June 1870.

Tiluck Pattuck (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Mahabeer Pandey and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Appellant.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondents.

A ryot is under no obligation to give any n under Section 19, Act X. of 1859, or under Sectio Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1869, merely to entitle him to up the land at the termination of a short lease which he holds.

A landlord claiming rent from such ryot for a after the expiry of his lease is bound to prove th latter held on subsequently to the term of the le

Macpherson, J.—THE case must manded to be re-tried upon the que to whether the defendant did or di remain on after the year 1274, so as liable to the plaintiff for the rent whic plaintiff claims from him in this suit.

The Subordinate Judge has entirely applied Section 20, Act VIII. of (Bengal Council), which has no refer to this case. Section 19, Act X. of is almost equally inapplicable, becaus tenant held under a lease which came end in the year 1274; and it is clea a ryot is under no obligation to give notice under Section 19, merely to e him to give up the land at the termin of a lease for a short term under whic holds.

The Subordinate Judge has also wrong in thinking that it lay wholly exclusively upon the defendant to the fact of his having given up the It appears to me that it lies upon plaintiff, who says that he did not quish when the term of his lease ex to prove that the defendant held on.

The Court must look at the whole the evidence on the record, and find ther, as a matter of fact, after the e of his lease, the defendant did hold on he did, he will be liable to pay rent; if the plaintiff's case must fail.

The appellant is entitled to the co this appeal.

Mookerjee, J.—This was a suit to re arrears of rent for the years 1274, 1 1276, and 12-annas kist of 1277. defence was that, as the lease expire 1274, defendant had given up possessio the end of that year. The defendant pleaded that he has paid the rent for 12

The first Court gave a decree for rent of 1274, and dismissed the re the claim. Both parties appealed to Subordinate Judge, Moulvie Itrut Ho who decreed the appeal of the pl and dismissed that of the defendant.

d

dinate Judge holds that, inasmuch as fendant-ryot has not given any written to the plaintiff under Section 20, VIII. of 1869 (B. C.), of his intention to nish the land, he is liable for the rent same. He also lays it down as a pro- n of law that "parol evidence of esses is not sufficient proof to establish" int of relinquishment, but that the ant ought to have produced a written

ink the Judge is wrong in every point e has decided He is wrong in hold- at the onus of relinquishment is on the It is admitted that the lease under the ryot entered was a lease for three certain, and extended from 1272 to The allegation of the plaintiff is that, gh the lease expired at the end of the ryot continued to hold on, and has quently made himself liable for rent. plaintiff must, therefore, prove his alle- ns.

en it is said that the duty of the ryot to give a written notice under Section f Act VIII. of 1869, B. C. This Section been wrongly applied by the Subordinate e. It does not apply to cases where ryot holds under a lease which was for ited period, which period has expired. the expiry of the lease, the ryot had ght to hold. He might have been consi- d to be a trespasser by the plaintiff, and d have rendered himself liable to wassi- He would, therefore, be perfectly justi- in giving up possession. The plaintiff t to have known that the lease had ex- d, and not required a written notice.

he defendant, however, had adduced wit- es to prove that he left the jote on the ry of the term of the lease. The Subor- te Judge was of opinion that parol mony was insufficient in law to prove fact of the relinquishment. In this view, is entirely wrong. Parol evidence, if ved, is as sufficient to prove a fact as umentary evidence. The Subordinate ge should not have rejected it as insuffici- in law to prove the defendant's averments. ould, therefore, remand the case for a per decision with advertence to the above arks. The Judge should, in the first ance, call on the plaintiff to establish case, and, if he succeeds in doing so, will see whether the defendant has been to rebut the evidence produced by the ntiff, and decide the case according to the ult of that inquiry.

The 27th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Pre-emption—Execution-sale.

Case No. 2711 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the 1st Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 22nd November 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Serampore, dated the 8th August 1870.

Shaikh Ferasut Ali (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Ashootosh Roy Singh and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellant.

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Respondents.

During the minority of two out of four brothers, an ikrarnamah was entered into between them to the effect that no separation was to take place without the consent of all, and that, if one of them separated without such consent, he was to forfeit his share of the family-property, and that, if any one wished to dispose of his share, he was to give his brothers the preference. One *F* purchased at a private sale the share of *M*, one of the brothers. On this, two of the brothers, *A* and *J*, brought a suit against *F* to set aside the sale as contrary to the terms of the ikrarnamah, and urged their claim to pre-emption. The suit was decreed with a stipulation that the purchase-money should be paid back. This not having been done, *F* sued *M*, got a decree, and in execution put up for sale *M's* rights and interests in the family-estate, bought them himself, and took possession. The present suit is by *A* and *J* to recover possession on the ground that *M* had no rights and interests left which could be sold in execution.

HELD that, as *M* had never separated, his share had not been forfeited, and that the only other privilege left to the plaintiffs under the ikrar, *viz.*, pre-emption, could not be exercised, inasmuch as *M* had not sold his share, the sale having been the act of the Court.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiffs in this case are two of the four sons of Nobokishore Roy Singh, the other two sons being Mohabharut, a *pro-formâ* defendant, and Juggernath who died without issue. During the minority of Joykishen and Juggernath, an ikrarnamah was entered into between the brothers

in 1273, the terms of which were that they were to continue to live jointly; that no separation was to take place without the consent of all; that if any one of the brothers did separate without such consent, he was to forfeit his share of the family-property; and that, if any one wished to dispose of his share, he was to give his brothers the preference.

The plaintiffs' statement is that their brother Mohabharut separated himself from the rest of the family without their consent, and thereby forfeited his share of the estate. They also say that the defendant Ferasut Ali, who purchased in execution of a decree the rights and interests of this Mohabharut, in reality, bought nothing at all, inasmuch as, before the sale took place, Mohabharut had lost his share by separating without the consent of his brothers.

It appears that the defendant Ferasut Ali purchased in the first place at a private sale Mohabharut's 4-annas share in the property. On this, Ashootosh and Joykishen brought a suit against Ferasut Ali to set the sale aside, on the ground that it had been made contrary to the terms of the ikrarnamah, and that they were entitled to preemption. The suit was decreed against Ferasut Ali, the decree stipulating that the purchase-money should be paid back to the purchaser. The money was not paid back, and Ferasut Ali brought a suit against Mohabharut to recover it. He got a decree, and in execution put up for sale the rights and interests of Mohabharut in the family estate, bought them himself, and took possession. The present suit is brought to recover possession from him, on the ground that Mohabharut had no rights and interests left which could be sold in execution.

It was alleged on the part of the defendant that the ikrar between the brothers was not a *bonâ-fide* proceeding; that it was an arrangement in fraud of creditors. There was also a further allegation that Mohabharut had not separated, and was still living jointly with his brothers. The Court of first instance found that the ikrar was *bonâ fide*, and that Mohabharut had not separated from his brothers. The Moonsiff, therefore, dismissed the plaintiffs' suit.

The Subordinate Judge agreed with the Court below in considering the ikrar to be *bonâ fide*, on the ground that it had already, in a previous judgment, been so declared to be, and he found that that being so, Mohabharut's share could not be He, therefore, reversed the decision Court of first instance.

This decision appears to us to be ous. The Moonsiff has found clearly the Subordinate Judge has likewise (though not in the precise words) infer that Mohabharut never did separate rest of his brothers; and that being would be no forfeiture of his share we were to admit that the ikrar was strument which could be supporte grounds of public policy. There bei forfeiture, the only other privilege the brothers had left to them under the was the right to become purchasers b emption of Mohabharut's share in the of Mohabharut selling; but Mohabhar not sold his share. It has been sold it but by the action of the Court in exec of a decree passed against Mohab which is quite a different thing. Mo if the plaintiffs Ashootosh and Joyk wished to purchase their brother's share, could easily have done so by bidding sale which took place in execution decree.

It seems to us that the plaintiffs ha case, and that the defendant was quite fied in taking possession of Mohabh share, which he bought in execution cree. The decree of the Lower App Court must, therefore, be reversed, an plaintiffs' suit dismissed with all costs.

The 28th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Offi Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble A. Macpherson, *Judge*.

Court Fees Act, 1870—Stamp-duty—Tr property.

In the goods of H. B. Beresford, *dec*

and

In the goods of Sir T. H. Maddock *deceased*.

Reference to the Chief Justice by Mr. R Belchambers, Taxing Officer of the H Court, under Section 5 of the C Fees Act, 1870.

Under the Court Fees Act, 1870, trust-property scending on the death of the trustee is liable to the *valorem* stamp-duty prescribed by Schedule I., No 11, to that Act.

erence in the first case.—On the 22nd tember last Mr. Samuel Cochrane Manager of the Agra Bank), under a from the Executors in England of the f Henry Brown Beresford, deceased, d for and obtained from this Court of administration (with a copy of the nexed) of the property and credits of eased.

petition for letters of administration the following statements:—

at there are assets *belonging to the of deceased* within the jurisdiction is Honorable Court to be adminis-d.

hat the amount of such assets likely to e to your petitioner's hands will not ed the sum of Rupees 24,000."

ad-valorem fee, prescribed by the Fees Act, 1870, Schedule 1, Number as, upon the facts stated in the peti-properly charged on the sum of Rupees 0, and was paid without any claim made to exemption.

Cochrane now applies that the fee id by him may be refunded, on the d that the property in respect of which e was paid belongs, not (as stated in etition for letters of administration) to tate of the deceased, but to a marriage-ment of which the deceased was the f three trustees.

e question to be considered is whether *d-valorem* fee was payable in respect of rty belonging (as it now appears) to a This question may be determined Section 5 of the Court Fees Act; but is no provision in the Act under which der may be made by the High Court, any Judge or officer of the Court, for fund of the *ad-valorem* fee after it has paid.

der the English Stamp Act (55 Geo. 184, Sec. 38), probate-duty is not ble on trust-property.

is reasonable that probate-duty should e payable in respect of property which vested in the deceased as a trustee, and beneficially, to which his Executor or inistrator can have no title as such, and ect the transfer of which to new trus-is the sole purpose for which it is sought tain probate or letters of administra-

There is no provision in the Court Fees Act similar to that in the English Stamp Act for exempting trust-property from the payment of the *ad-valorem* fee; and the words in Schedule 1, if read literally, would require the fee to be paid in all cases, if the property be above the value of 1,000 rupees, irrespective of any question as to how the property is circumstanced. It was, however, held by the Chief Justice (Sir Richard Couch) in the case of Olivia Hovenden George* (decided on the 10th of May 1870) that the words in the Schedule must be understood to mean "property which the deceased was possessed of or entitled to." In that

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* The 14th May 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble Sir Richard Couch, *Kt., Chief Justice.*

In the goods of Olivia Hovenden George, *deceased.*

Case referred to the Chief Justice by Mr. R. Belchambers, Taxing Officer of the High Court, under Section 5 of the Court Fees Act, 1870.

Reference.—By a deed of settlement, dated 21st July 1866, and made between Olivia Hovenden Tiery, widow, and Charles Lazarus, certain shares of and in real and personal estate were granted, conveyed, and assigned to Mr. Lazarus, upon trust to pay the income to Mrs. Tiery during her life for her separate use, and after her death to hold the property for all her children for the time being in such manner and form as she should by deed or Will appoint.

Mrs. Tiery afterwards intermarried with Mr. James George.

In July of last year, shortly previous to her death, Mrs. George, in exercise of the power reserved in the Deed of Settlement, made a Will, and appointed her husband and the trustee of the settlement executors.

The husband alone has applied for and obtained probate of the Will, but the probate has been detained in the office pending the decision of the question whether the *ad-valorem* fee prescribed by the Court Fees Act, 1870, is chargeable in the present case.

By Schedule 1 (Number 11) of the Act, if the amount or value of the property in respect of which probate or letters of administration be granted exceeds 1,000 rupees, a fee of two per centum is payable on such amount or value.

It is submited on behalf of the Executor that the above fee is payable in respect of property which passes under the Will, and not in respect of property which, as in this case, does not pass under the Will.

By the deeds of July 1866, Mrs. Tiery settled the property on her children, reserving to herself the income during her life, as also power to determine by deed or Will the manner in which the property should, after her death, be enjoyed by those for whom it was held in trust.

The power so reserved was not an absolute power of disposition, under which she was at liberty to recall the trust and dispose of the property in some other way; but it was a power under which she could only direct how the property, which she had already secured to the

case the deceased was neither possessed of the property in respect of which probate had been obtained, nor was she entitled to it, not even legally as opposed to beneficially. She had the right (and only the bare right) under a settlement, to direct, either by Deed or Will, how property already secured to her children should be enjoyed, and she exercised such right by a testamentary instrument which was proved in this Court and admitted to probate. As that case is, in its principal facts, different from the present case, it is referred to the Honorable the Chief Justice to determine the question whether property which the deceased in this case was possessed of and entitled to as trustee, and not beneficially, was chargeable with the *ad-valorem* fee. [*See* Tilsley's Stamp Laws, p. 604.]

Reference in the second case.—Andrew Ross Bell died in 1841, having first made his Will, and thereby appointed Thomas Herbert Maddock (afterwards Sir Thomas Herbert Maddock) one of the Executors.

On 28th January 1842, Thomas Herbert Maddock alone proved the Will in the late Supreme Court, and obtained probate.

Thomas Herbert Maddock has since died in England, leaving no property of his own in this country, but leaving Government securities for Rupees 21,600 standing in his name, but belonging to the estate of Andrew Ross Bell.

The Administrator-General has ob from this Court letters of admini (with a copy of the Will annexed) unadministered property and credits drew Ross Bell, and has also obtained of administration of the property a dits of Thomas Herbert Maddock, th for the sole purpose of effecting the t of the Government securities for 21,600 to himself as administrator estate of Andrew Ross Bell, and the for the purpose of administering the G ment securities after such transfer.

The Government securities adm belong to the estate of Andrew Ross and it is only because they stand i name of Thomas Herbert Maddock has been necessary to obtain letters ministration of his estate.

The question referred for the deter tion of the Hon'ble the Chief Justi whether, under the Court Fees Act, Schedule I., Clause II., the *ad-valorem* fee is payable in respect of each letters of administration obtained by Administrator-General.

The decision of the question *sub ju* the goods of H. B. Beresford, deceased probably govern the question in the p case.

If in that case it should be decided the *ad-valorem* stamp-fee is payable spect of trust-property, the result w that the property in the present case chargeable with the stamp fee twice as trust-property in the hands of T Herbert Maddock, and to effect the tr of which it has been necessary to letters of administration of his estate, again as the property of Andrew Ross and for the administration of which it been necessary to obtain letters of ad tration of his estate.

The Court delivered the following j ments on the point referred to it:—

Norman, C. J.—The 11th Clause Schedule I. of the Court Fees Act of provides for the fee which is to be pa on the probate of a Will or letters of a nistration with or without Will anne The 12th Clause provides for the fee pa upon a certificate granted under Act XX of 1860 for facilitating the collection debts on successions and for the secur parties paying debts to the represent

children, should be enjoyed by them. It seems to me that a distinction should be drawn between the case of a Will made in exercise of an absolute power of disposition reserved in a deed of trust and the case of a will made under a power limited, as in the present case, to the act of prescribing the mode of enjoyment of property by persons whose rights to the property itself is independent of the Will. In the one case the property passes under the Will, and is therefore properly chargeable with probate-duty ; in the other it does not pass under the Will at all.

As the question is one of general importance, I am desired to refer it for the decision of the Honorable the Chief Justice under Section 5 of the Court Fees Act.

Judgment of the Chief Justice.

The words in the Schedule, if read literally, would require that the *ad-valorem* fee should be paid in respect of this property, but I think that they must be understood to n ean property which the deceased was possessed of or entitled to, and that the *ad-valorem* fee is not payable. I consider the case to be substantially the same as if it had arisen upon the English Act, where it has been decided that probate-duty is not payable (Drake, *vs.* The Attorney-General, 12 Cl. and Fin. 257), and I decide that the *ad-valorem* fee is not payable in this case.

deceased persons. The fee is thereby at 2 per centum on the amount or of the property in respect of which probate or letters or certificate shall be ed, if such amount exceeds the sum of rupees. The Court Fees Act contains h exception of trust-properties as is to nd in the 38th Section of the English Act, 55 Geo. 3, C. 184. I am of n that the term "property," as men- in those Clauses, includes, not only ty to which the deceased was benefi entitled during his lifetime, but also roperty which stood in his name as e, or of which he was possessed benamee hers.

e language of the Clause, so far as it s to the amount payable upon property pect of which probate is to be granted, rs clear, but the meaning becomes still clear when the note at the foot of Clauses is looked to, which is as fol- "The person to whom any such ificate is granted, or his representa- shall, after the expiration of twelve nths from the date of such certificate, d thereafter whenever the Court grant- such certificate requires him so to do, a statement on oath of all moneys vered or realized by him under such tificate.

the moneys so recovered or realized ed the amount of debts or other pro- y as sworn to by the person to whom certificate is granted, the Court may el the same, and order such person to out a fresh certificate, and pay the prescribed by this Schedule for such ess."

w, reading that note, it appears that, in to avoid any mistake, the Act express- ys that, if the amount recovered or ed under the certificate exceeds the nt of debts or other property as sworn fee is to be payable for the excess. fee, therefore, on the certificate is pay- on the total amount of the moneys vered or realized, without any reference ver to the amount of the beneficial t to be disposed by the person ob- g the certificate. If the moneys real- or in other words the debts collected, the certificate amounted to 20,000 s, and the liabilities of the testator 10,000 rupees, the fee would be pay- by the person obtaining the certificate the entire amount collected, and not upon the surplus assets available to, or distributable by, him. It is clear, therefore, that the value of the property alluded to in the 11th and 12th Clauses does not mean the beneficial interest of the testator in such property. For these reasons, I am of opinion that the full *ad-valorem* duty is payable in the case both of Mr. Beresford and of Sir Herbert Maddock.

The decision of Chief Justice Sir Richard Couch in the case of Mrs. George appears to me not to be in any way touched by anything which we have said to-day. The probate there was granted in respect of a Will made in execution of a naked power-of-appointment against particular persons, which was not, either in the hands of the testatrix or of the Executor, *property* of any description.

Macpherson, J.—I am entirely of the same opinion, and think that there is nothing whatever in the Court Fees Act to show that there was any intention to exempt trust-property from the operation of Schedule I., Clause 11. Trust-property was expressly exempted by the English Stamp Act; and if the Legislature had intended that it should not be chargeable in this country, there would doubtless have been an express exemption to that effect in the Court Fees Act. There is no such exemption; and the language used clearly includes trust-property.

The 28th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Decree—Instalment—Bond—Execution.

Case No. 476 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the First Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 16th September 1870.

Bishto Chunder Chuckerbutty and another (Decree-holders), *Appellants*,

versus

Woomanath Roy Chowdhry (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent*.

Baboos Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty and *Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Appellants.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Ashootosh Dhur* for Respondent.

A judgment-debtor executed two kistbundees in favor of parties interested in the decree, making provision for the payment of certain instalments on these terms, that if one of the kists fell due, the party to whom it was to be given might claim the whole amount with interest, and realize it in execution of the decree.

HELD that the decree was not satisfied by the taking of the kistbundee, and that the payments made in pursuance of the kistbundee were made towards satisfaction of the decree, and the remedy of the decree-holder under the decree continued, although he agreed, so long as he received the instalments under the kistbundee, not to execute the decree.

Norman, C. J.—THIS case, which at first looked a little complicated, resolves itself ultimately into a very simple point. The facts are briefly these. A decree had been obtained against the defendants in January 1861 for Rupees 39,000. The interest of the decree-holder in the decree became divided into two parts; one of which came to Bishto Chunder Chuckerbutty, who had 9 annas 12 gundahs of the whole amount; and the other in succession to two persons, named respectively Indro Narain Pordhan and Kalee Doss Chuckerbutty, who were entitled to 6 annas 8 gundahs of the decree.

The judgment-debtor entered into arrangements for the payment of their several shares to the parties interested, executing two kistbundees dated respectively the 22nd February 1864 and the 4th June 1866. The kistbundees which made provisions for the payment of certain instalments contained these terms: That if one of the kists falls due, the party to whom the same was to be given might claim the whole amount with interest, and might proceed to execute the decree, and realize the amount in execution thereof.

On the 5th of June 1867, Bishto Chunder Chuckerbutty, who is now executing the decree, applied for execution, and later in the same day put in an application stating that he had received the sum of Rupees 2,500 from the judgment-debtor in satisfaction of his demand, and therefore did not desire to take further proceedings at that time. On the 26th September 1867, the decree-holders, Kalee Doss and Bishto Chunder, respectively, filed petitions informing the Court that they had received the sum of Rupees 2,000 towards satisfaction of the decree. It does not appear that at that time any further proceedings were taken to execute the decree. If the statemen those petitions is true, and the judgm debtor then paid the decree-holder R 2,000 on account of the debt, that wo within three years before the present ceedings for execution of decree taken.

The Subordinate Judge says th proceedings of the 26th September w proceedings taken for the execution cree; and in support of the judgm the Subordinate Judge in this respe Allan and Baboo Ashootosh Dhur argued that the payment made on the September 1867 were made on acco the kistbundee, and not on account decree.

We are of opinion, however, that these proceedings, and looking at the of the kistbundee, it appears that the d remained in force, and was not satisfi the taking of the kistbundee; that payments made in pursuance of the bundee were made towards satisfacti the decree, and the remedy of the de holder under the decree by execution tinued, although he agreed, as long received the instalments under the kis dee, not to execute that decree. The cation for payment and the enforcing ment from the jndgment-debtor on the September, although in pursuance stipulation contained in the kistbundee the taking of a step to enforce the iff's right under the decree; or in words, the decree of the Court: an very point now before us appears to been decided by Chief Justice Sir Peacock and Mr. Justice Mitter in the of Bhoobunessuree Debee *versus* Din Sandyal, reported in 11 Weekly Re page 232.

The case must, therefore, go back Subordinate Judge; and if he finds th Rupees 2,000 alluded to in the petition 26th September 1867 were paid in the ner and at the time alleged in those pet he will allow execution to proceed other cause be shown against it. It is that the right to execute the decree wil be barred by limitation.

The decree-holder is entitled to his of this appeal, which we assess at R 64.

Loch, J.—I concur in the order o mand.

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The 28th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

wnership—Submersions—Accretions.

Case No. 2265 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Judge of Mymensingh, the 16th August 1870, affirming a ion of the Subordinate Judge of t District, dated the 25th February 9.

rkanath Roy Chowdhry (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

undhoo Singh Chowdhry and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

oos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellant.

s Sreenath Doss, Mohinee Mohun y, and *Kishen Dyal Roy* for Respondents.

ership in soil is not lost because the subject of it es submerged; the owner of the site or sub-soil owner of the surface, and on re-formation of face-soil takes whatever falls within his known ries. Ordinarily there can be no right of accre- hen the new formation is on the site of what was dy held by an individual as his private property.

slie, J.—THE plaintiff sues to recover n chur lands divided into two blocks; o. 1 containing lands said to be ac- s to plaintiff's village Khidder, which re-formed on the sites of two other es belonging to him, named Bahir and ur Seemul, which were washed away e river Jumoona; and plot No. 2 con- g re-formations on the site of an estate d Bheel Gungureeah. The defendant, is the proprietor of mouzah Mollancha, possession, and has in his favor an d made by the Magistrate under Chapter l. of the Criminal Procedure Code. therefore, incumbent on the plaintiff ove a good title to the whole of the claimed by him. No question of limi- n arises to complicate the case.

he Judge of Mymensingh, on the 16th st 1870, affirmed the decree of the rdinate Judge, by which the whole of No. 1 was awarded to the plaintiff, and his claim to the entire plot No. 2 was dismissed.

The finding of the Judge on the facts in respect of plot No. 1 is in the following terms:—

"The fact which seems to have been very "clearly established in this case is that the "churs of plot No. 1 are not only a re-"formation on the old site of mouzahs once "in the plaintiff's possession, but long since "washed away, that is, since 1860; but "they are also an increment to the plaint-"iff's estate, and they cannot be regard-"ed in any way as appertaining to the "defendant's village of Mollancha on the "other side of the branch of the Jumoona.

"A careful inspection of the survey-maps "of 1851-52 and those of 1860 leads me to "think that the river changed its course "materially between those dates, as the "survey-map of 1852 of mouzahs Chow-"dhry Mollancha and Nulcha Mollancha "shows that there was a large river "between Nulcha Mollancha and Bahir "Seemul; whereas in 1860 the survey-"map of Bahir Seemul shows no river as "intervening between Chowdhry Mollancha "and Bahir Seemul, and the circumstance "is one which, I think, goes to substantiate "the allegation of the plaintiff that Bahir "and Bheetur Seemul were washed away "subsequently to 1860, and by the river "once more changing its course the churs "of plot No. 1 in dispute became re-formed "on the site of the villages."

Both the Courts below have accepted the report of the Ameen as trustworthy.

The defendant appeals specially to this Court on two grounds:—

1st.—That the Courts below have erred in applying the law to the facts found, in that the Ameen's report, which has been accepted by the Judge as good evidence, shows that certain portions of plot No. 1 are re-formations on the site of mouzah Nulkhola, and therefore no title founded on accretion can be maintained.

2nd.—That neither Court has come to a distinct finding on the objection to the Ameen's report raised by the defendant, to the effect that the point from which he started when defining the boundaries shown in his map, and which he assumed to be the point of junction of the boundaries of mouzahs Pâl Moogree, Allapore, and Khidder, was not, in reality, the true point of junction.

As to this second ground of special appeal, it appears that the Ameen was brought into Court and was examined by the defendant. He stated that he had taken and recorded the evidence of three witnesses, proprietors of mouzah Allapore, in the presence of the agents of both parties; that these witnesses concurred in pointing out a particular spot as the point of junction of the boundaries of the three villages; and that, by comparison with the thâk maps, he satisfied himself that this point was correctly given. There is not a single fact adduced on the examination of the Ameen inconsistent with the assumption that this point has been correctly found, and there is not a particle of evidence to establish the contrary. The Courts below have both characterized the proceedings of the Ameen as most careful, and, although this particular objection has not been specifically noticed, we cannot doubt that it was considered. We think that the omission to record any direct finding resulted from the fact that there was no conflict of evidence on the point calling for a judicial declaration. It would be mere waste of the time of the Courts to remand the case for a finding on a point on which the evidence is all one way, when the Courts have evidently acted on the assumption that the objection was wholly unfounded. It may be further noticed that the irregularities in the boundary of mouzah "Uslee Khidder," which was not washed away, are such that it is impossible to believe that any material error in the starting point would not very soon have become apparent to the Ameen himself and all parties present, when he began to lay off the boundary-line on the ground from the maps in his hand.

The first objection is founded on a recent construction of Regulation XI. of 1825, by their Lordships of the Privy Council in the case of Lopez *versus* Muddun Thakoor, 14 Weekly Reporter, page 11. This judgment was delivered on the 11th July 1870, and had not been published in this country when this suit was before the Courts below; but it is unnecessary to remand the case as the facts to which the law as now construed has to be applied have been fully found, and are set forth in the Ameen's map and report which the Lower Appellate Court has approved.

The view of the law by which we are to be guided may be stated in the following terms:—

That ownership is not lost because the subject of it becomes submerged; the owner of the site or sub-soil remains owner of surface, be it land or water, and on mation of the surface-soil takes wh falls within his known boundaries. The by accretion is limited to gains from which was not previously private prope therefore ordinarily there can be no ri this kind when the new formation the site of what was formerly be an individual as his private property, under peculiar circumstances there m such a right as in the case of Lord borough cited by their Lordships.

In this case, we have, as found by Judge, complete destruction and re-form since 1860; therefore the case does no within the class of exempted cases in the acquisition has been so *gradual*, and *imperceptible*, as to make the rig the owner of the site one incapable of b enforced.

On referring to the Ameen's map, we that in the south-west angle of the in dispute there is a block laid dow formed on the site of what previously to last washing away of the lands was de cated by the survey authorities in 186 mouzah Nulkhola. The plaintiff d the existence of any such mouzah, and c this block as a gain from the river of never was appropriated by an indiv But from his own plaint, as we from the fact of a survey of this ri having been made in 1860, this denial no weight. The block of land with we have to deal in this appeal has been by the Ameen to lie outside the bound of *Bahir* and *Bheetur* Seemul as define 1860, and within the boundary of what then surveyed and recorded as mouzah khola. The plaintiff, who now denies existence of any such village as Nulk in this plaint, described the southern bou ary of the land claimed as follows: To south the lands of *Bahir* Seemul, unje occupied by the proprietors of Pergun Kagmaree as belonging to Nulkhola. Cl ly, there was and still is land which occupied by third parties as mouzah N khola, and the plaintiff cannot in this go into the question of their title. land in dispute now is on the site of village of Nulkhola; and so long as the of the plaintiff to the site is not establish he cannot be said to have proved a right the surface. The appellant must co quently succeed.

d

he plaintiffs have put in cross-objections e decision against them in respect of No. 2, which the Ameen has found to re-formation within the boundaries of s formerly belonging to the plaintiffs. special appellant admits that the judg- of their Lordships of the Privy Council, hich he relies in respect of the re-form- s on the site of Nulkhola, disposes of ross-objection in favor of the plaintiffs.

e appeal and cross-appeal are both al- d. The decree of the Court below is fied as follows: The claim of the plaint- the lands in plot No. 1 shown in the en's map as re-formations on the site of ah Nulkhola is dismissed, and his claim e lands in plot No. 2 is decreed.

ach party will bear his own costs of this al.

The 29th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief ustice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

ent of land with buildings—Jurisdiction.

No. 1953 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

rial Appeal from a decision passed by e Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated e 15th June 1870, affirming a decision f the Assistant Collector of that District, ated the 26th June 1869.

Mothoora Nath Koondoo (Defendant), *Appellant*,

versus

W. Campbell, manager on behalf of Mr. Scott Moncrieff (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Mr. J. S. Rochfort for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt* for Respondent.

A suit by a zemindar against a putneedar or ijaradar for rent is cognizable in a Collector's Court under Sec- 23, Act X. of 1859, although there may be houses on the land demised.

The price for the use of land in its improved state is rent which can be sued for in the Collector's Court whether the improvement consists in the clearance of jungle, draining, fencing, accessibility by means of roads made upon or leading to it, contrivances for irrigation, or buildings erected upon the land.

Where the principal subject of occupation is a building or buildings, when the rent is substantially the price of such occupation, the land on which the buildings stand being a merely subordinate matter, the rent cannot be truly described as "the rent of land either kherajee or lakheraj."

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a suit brought in the Collector's Court under Act X. of 1859, for the rent of a very considerable tract of land described as a 12 annas durputnee talook of mouzah Majumpore and all the jotes lately held by Mr. Kenny in the 16 annas of the village, two brick buildings in the shape of a half moon, each containing 20 apartments, with a brick-built godown standing on the said jotes, with khas, fallow, julkur, bunkur, churs, &c., lakheraj lands in mouzah Majumpore, a 4 annas dur-ijarah of mouzah Majumpore, mouzah Moofareepore, and lakheraj lands in Bahadoor Khalee, containing in all 1,330 beegahs. The enumeration of the different tenures and ryots' holdings in the kubooleut, which was duly registered, is written in Bengalee, and occupies 25 closely written sheets of the largest sized brief paper.

There are hâts upon the land in question, and the brick-houses included in the lease are apparently of considerable value.

The Assistant Collector of Kooshtea, Mr. Luttman Johnson, who tried the case, says: "There are certain pucca houses on the "land, and no doubt part of the rent stipu- "lated is really on account of house-rent. "But neither is the amount of house-rent "nor the fact that anything is due on ac- "count of house-rent mentioned in the "kubooleut. The houses are merely men- "tioned in a list of property—the mention "of them is merely descriptive." There is also "a clause whereby the tenant is bound "to keep the houses in good repair, and the "right of letting them is made over to him "specifically."

The defendant objected before the Assistant Collector that a suit for rent could not be maintained in the Collector's Court.

The objection was overruled by the Assistant Collector, and his decision has been affirmed by the Judge on appeal.

The objection has now been renewed on special appeal before this Court.

It seems to be supposed that there is a considerable conflict of decisions on the question before us. But I think that, when the cases are closely examined, it will be found that such is not the case.

The preamble of Act X. of 1859 recites that "it is expedient to re-enact, with certain modifications, the provisions of the "existing law relative to the rights of "ryots with respect to the delivery of pottahs and the occupancy of land, to the prevention of illegal exaction and extortion "in connection with demands of rent, and "to other questions connected with the "same; *to extend the jurisdiction of Collectors*, and to prescribe rules for the trial of "*such questions, as well as of suits for the* "*recovery of arrears of rent*, and of suits "arising out of the distraint of property "for such arrears."

Upon the language of this preamble, I desire to observe that the suits for the recovery of arrears of rent do not appear to be limited in any way. There is nothing to restrict the word "rents" to rents due from ryots.

The 23rd Section enacts that all suits for arrears of rent due on account of land either kherajee or lakheraj, or on account of any rights of pasturage, forest-rights, fisheries, and the like, shall be cognizable by the Collectors of land-revenue, and shall be instituted and tried under the provisions of this Act, and except in the way of appeal as provided in this Act *shall not be cognizable in any other Court* or by any other officer, or in any other manner.

We have to consider whether the suit with which we have to deal is a suit for the rent of land. If so, the Collector's Court, and the Collector's Court alone, had cognizance of it under Act X.

If the principal subject of the demise—that for which substantially the rent is reserved is land, I think it matters not that the value is increased by houses or other buildings standing upon the land. This Court so held in Tarinee Pershad Ghose *versus* the Bengal Indigo Company, 2 Weekly Reporter, Act X. Rulings, page 9.

The rent of land does not represent its value in a state of nature or as jungle, but as improved land; and whether the improvement consists in the clearance of jungle, draining, fencing, accessibility by roads made upon or leading to it, contrivances for i[illegible] tion, or buildings erected upon the land, [illegible] not, in my opinion, in any way affec[illegible] question. In all cases such as I have [illegible] posed, the price for the use of the la[illegible] its improved state is rent which can be [illegible] for in the Collector's Court.

By way of analogy, I desire to re[illegible] the fact that in England it has lou[illegible] settled that, though the value of de[illegible] premises may be increased by the goo[illegible] the premises, yet the rent must be de[illegible] to issue out of the house and land, and [illegible] out of the goods; and consequently a [illegible] lord does not lose his remedy by di[illegible] when goods are let with a house as wh[illegible] furnished house is the subject of the de[illegible] one rent only being reserved. *See* New[illegible] *versus* Anderton, 2 Bosanquet and Pu[illegible] New Reports, page 224.

On the other hand, where the principal [illegible] ject of occupation is a building or buil[illegible] —when the rent is substantially the pri[illegible] the use and occupation of such buildi[illegible] buildings, the land on which the buil[illegible] stand being a merely subordinate matte[illegible] may well be that the rent for such buil[illegible] cannot be truly described "as the re[illegible] land either kherajee or lakheraj."

The cases of Maharajah Dheeraj Ma[illegible] Chand Bahadoor *versus* Mokoond B[illegible] Bose, 14 Weekly Reporter, page [illegible] Bipro Dass Dey *versus* William Wooll[illegible] Weekly Reporter, page 223; and H[illegible] Mohun Sircar *versus* Moncrieff,* 7th Dec[illegible] ber 1870, fall apparently within this c[illegible] of cases.

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* The 7th December 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder [illegible] kerjee, *Judges.*

Case No. 1341 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the A[illegible] tional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 9th May [illegible] reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of [illegible] District, dated the 5th April 1869.

Huree Mohun Sircar and others (Defendants) [illegible] *Appellants,*

versus

Mr. R. Scott Moncrieff (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellants.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt* [illegible] Respondent.

a zemindar could not sue a putneedar or zaradar for rent under Section 23 of X. of 1859, merely because there were houses on the land demised, he would, ct, be wholly without remedy.

am of opinion that in the present case uit is a suit for the rent of land, and re that the decisions of the Lower s must be affirmed with costs.

h, J.—I quite concur.

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kson, J.—THIS is a suit for two months' rent of gahs of land, and of certain *arhuts, ghauts, hauts, asaars* thereon, in Mouzah Kennypore near the of Kooshtea. The Lower Courts have come to ite conclusions as regards the points which were before them, namely, as to whether the defendant titled to an abatement of rent or not. On special al in this Court, we are asked to set aside the deci- of the Lower Appellate Court on the ground that evenue Court in which this case was instituted had risdiction to receive the plaint. Under the prece- of this Court, the Revenue Courts have no juris- n to entertain suits like the one before us. The nder the lease does not come from the land, but st comes from the *arhuts* and from the *ghauts* and the *basaars*, as well as from the land, which ex- s the fact that 46 beegahs are let out at the rent pees 5,000 annually. The case seems to be on all fours with the cases noted in the margin,* in which it has been held that such suits do not form the subject of Act X. of 1859; must be brought in Civil Courts. However reluc- we may feel to remand this case, still following e precedents, we think we are obliged to set aside ecision of the Judge, and direct that the suit may ought in the proper Court. The costs of the ap- , as far as it has gone, will be borne by the parties ectively, inasmuch as no such objection was raised y of the Lower Courts.

The decision of the Judge is set aside, and the plaint- 's suit is dismissed.

* Weekly Reporter, Vol. 14, page 246.
Ditto „ 11, „ 183.
Ditto „ 8, „ 250.
Ditto „ 11, „ 400.
Ditto „ 9, „ 552.

The 1st May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Exaggerated claim—Decree—Costs.

Case No. 1801 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Hooghly, dated the 19th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Second Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 24th March 1870.

Ram Chunder Chowdhry (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Captain E. M. Mariott, Executive Commissariat Officer and Superintendent of Government Elephants (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale and *Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Appellant.

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for Respondent.

A Judge in appeal was held to have done wrong in dismissing a plaintiff's case *in toto* with all costs, on the ground that he had monstrously exaggerated his claim in the first instance, when there was a ground, although small, for the plaintiff's contention.

Where a plaintiff is entitled to some part of his claim, he ought not to be deprived of the benefit of the decree by such an order as to costs as would make him liable to the defendant for more than he would himself recover.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this suit took a lease of certain marshy lands from the zemindar, Baboo Poorno Chunder Roy, on pottahs, dated the 18th and 24th of July and 5th of August 1868, at a yearly rent of Rupees 20.

It appears that the Government elephants stationed at Serampore had been in the habit of taking fodder, or dul grass, from these lands with the permission of the zemindar. After the plaintiff, however, got his lease, he applied to the Assistant Commissary-General at Barrackpore, stating the fact of his having got a lease, and demanding payment for the dul which the elephants

were in the habit of taking from his property. This was on the 8th of August 1868. The Commissariat officer replied, stating the fact that the Government elephants had always been accustomed to get fodder from the jheel with the permission of the zemindar, and he therefore desired the plaintiff to prove that he was entitled to the ownership of the land, and asked how it was that he had made no previous application for payment. Some correspondence then took place between the Commissariat officers and the plaintiffs, to which it is not necessary to allude more particularly here, except with reference to the letter of the 17th of August, in which the Commissariat officer, after denying the plaintiff's claim for any grass taken by the elephants during the period for which he made a demand, offered to enter into some arrangement for the supply of fodder for the future, and asked what terms the lessee of the property was prepared to agree to. The plaintiff, in his reply to this letter, dated the 19th of August, demands either 8 annas per head per day for each elephant taking fodder, or at the rate of 5 maunds of fodder for the rupee. This arrangement the Commissariat officer promptly rejected, and so far the correspondence closed with an expressed determination on the part of the Commissariat Officer to have nothing further to do with the plaintiff's jheel, and to remove the elephants elsewhere. A few days after this, the Commissary-General thought of applying to the zemindar, and got in return a letter from Baboo Poorno Chunder Roy, in which he declared that he had no intention whatever of taking payment for any fodder which might be required for the Government elephants, and that the Commissariat officers might still take fodder from the jheel as usual, only that care should be taken that no damage be done to what the Baboo calls "the subjects," by which term, we presume, the Baboo means the tenants or people holding some rights in the jheel given by himself.

The next communication made by the plaintiff to the Commissariat officer was through his solicitor, and in this he demanded a sum of 6,000 rupees as the price of the fodder which the Government elephants had consumed. The only reply given to this letter was that the Commissariat had taken the dul, because the zemindar had permitted it. On this the plaintiff brought the present suit, and he valued it, after taking advice as to how far he was likely to succeed, at Rupees 1,317.

The defence is generally that the mo the Commissariat Officer was aware plaintiff's claim, and found that he w able to come to any arrangements wi as to the price of the fodder, he a withdrew the elephants; that he had no wilful damage; and that the plainti not entitled to succeed.

The first Court settled the plaintiff at Rupees 658-8 annas with propo costs. The Judge, on appeal, whilst ap ly admitting that the Commissariat ele did take fodder from the plaintiff's from the 9th to the 19th of August, r to allow him any payment for that p on the ground that he had monst exaggerated his claim in the first ins and ought to get nothing; and in supp his order, he cited a decision of this in the case of Thakoor Luleet Narain plaintiff, appellant, *versus* Juggernath and another, defendants, respondents, lished in Volume VIII., Weekly Rep page 476. He, therefore, dismissed plaintiff's case *in toto* with all costs. think that this decision of the Judge c be sustained.

In the first place, the decision whic quotes from the 8th Volume, Weekly porter, does not apply; because in thi there was undoubtedly a ground, th probably a small one, for the plaintiff's tention, and we cannot find that the d ant took such steps as he certainly have taken to prevent the suit coming Court. From the very first, he see have kept the plaintiff at arms' length did not make any offer of paying even according to his own admission, due to the plaintiff for dul consumed b elephants.

With reference to the amount which plaintiff is entitled to claim, the Judge found on the evidence that the only d which the Commissariat elephants took der were from the 9th to the 19th of A or for a period of 10 days. The Judge refused to believe the evidence adduc the plaintiff, which went to show that elephants consumed the plaintiff's dul f the 5th to the 26th of August, and wards for some 15 days in October.

Taking this finding of fact as the ba which to make a calculation, we consider according to the defendant's own showing plaintiff is entitled to the value of the

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h the Government elephants consumed g 10 days. We find also that the ber of these elephants is shown by the nce to have been 70. As to the price dul grass, there is no special evidence e record to show with any clearness the value of it was when taken from heel, although there is some as to its when taken to the market; but it is d by the evidence of the Commis- Officer that Government was in the of paying its Mahouts 4 annas a day e expenses of dul grass, and there- we think that we should not be far in setting down the value of the consumed at 3 annas per head per day; 3 annas a day on a total of 70 elephants 10 days would make a total sum of es 131-4 annas—and this amount we der that the plaintiff is entitled to re- .

here remains the question of costs. It been argued on the part of Govern- t that this suit was brought without the test foundation; that it was a mon- ly exaggerated suit; that no attempt was e to settle matters without coming into t; and that the Government were bound me in and defend their interests, as the tiff had made it impossible by his ex- ant demands to come to any settle- . Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee, Senior Government Pleader, therefore, nds that the usual rule in cases in h the decision of the Lower Court is y upheld and partly reversed should be wed, namely, that the costs should be e payable in proportion to the amounts eed and dismissed. On the other hand, contended that the Government, though ing of the claim made and admitting a certain portion of it, at all events, was ect, there being no denial on the part e Commissariat Officer that the Govern- t elephants had been fed on the plaintiff's , made no attempt to settle that por- of the case, and did not even pay into t the value of the dul admitted to have used for 10 days, but forced the plaint- o come into Court.

e think that, on the whole, the fairest would be to order that each party ld bear their own costs. Had the de- ant endeavoured to put a stop to this ion, and offered to pay into Court the nt due on account of the 10 days for- we should have had no hesitation in ing that the costs should be fixed in proportion to the amounts decreed and dismissed on either side; but to do so in this case would be to take away every advantage which the plaintiff will get from this decree, and to give the Government a pecuniary benefit to which it is not entitled; for on a calculation made by us of the costs as they would be on this basis, we find that the Government would be a gainer, although it loses the suit, by some 20 or 30 rupees. Now, as we think that the plaintiff is entitled to some part of his claim, it would be manifestly improper to take away from him the entire benefit of the decree, by passing an order for costs which would make him liable to the defendant for a larger sum than that which he will himself recover.

We, therefore, modify the order of the Judge as above stated, and direct that each party bear his own costs.

The 1st May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. C. Paul, *Judge*.

Sale by manager of joint-family property—Consent—Presumption.

Case No. 2198 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 28th July 1870, reversing a decision of the First Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 19th February 1870.

Gopal Chunder Lahoory (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

Raj Kishore Lahoory and others (Defendants), *Respondents*.

Baboos Bama Churn Banerjee and *Rajender Misree* for Appellant.

Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee for Respondents.

On the death of *R S*, his eldest son *R K* undertook the management of the family-property, plaintiff [a grandson of the deceased through his third son] being then an infant. Not long after, *R K* purchased some land which he subsequently sold to *R D* and *H S D*, who are now represented by the defendants *H S* and *L N D*. In the present suit plaintiff alleges that the

property had been purchased by *R K* with money belonging to the joint funds of the family. The first Court found for plaintiff, and adjudged him one-fourth share of the property in suit. From that decree *H S* and *L N D* did not appeal, but *R K* did appeal. The Judge, assuming the Lower Court's finding to be correct, held that, as plaintiff, who was of age at the time, did not object to the sale, he could not recover possession of property sold by *R K* as the recognized agent and manager.

HELD that *R K* could not found any right upon the presumption of plaintiff's consent, however such presumption might have availed the other defendants, purchasers from *R K*, who had not appealed.

Norman, C. J.—THE plaintiff, Gopal Chunder Lahoory, the special appellant before us, was the son of Nobo Kishore, the third of five sons of Ram Soonder Lahoory. On the death of Ram Soonder Lahoory, his eldest son Raj Kishore undertook the management of the family-property, the plaintiff at that time being an infant. Ram Soonder died in Assin 1253. In 1255, the defendant, Raj Kishore, purchased certain land in Punchannogram, which, on the 4th Magh 1266, he sold to Romonee Dassee and Hurro Soonduree Dassee, who are now represented by the defendants, Hurro Soonduree and Lukhee Narainee Dassee.

The plaintiff brings this suit, alleging that the property so purchased by Raj Kishore was purchased with the money belonging to the joint funds of the family, and that Raj Kishore sold it without authority to Romonee and Hurro Soonduree. The defendant, Raj Kishore, adduced a great deal of evidence to show that the property was his own, and that it was purchased out of his own funds. His case is that he sold it to Romonee and Hurro Soonduree to pay his own debt. He puts forward, in a somewhat indirect way, a statement that he sold the property for his own purposes; but in the evidence he states that the sale took place in the presence of the plaintiff, Gopal Chunder Lahoory, and he attempts to show that Gopal Chunder consented to the sale.

The first Court finds that the accounts and other documents put in by Raj Kishore, to prove that the money out of which this property was purchased belonged to him, are fabricated, and that the property was really purchased out of the joint funds, and by its decree adjudges to the plaintiff one-fourth share of the property in suit.

From that decree, Hurro Soonduree and Lukhee Narainee did not appeal to the Judge. Raj Kishore did appeal. The Judge seems to have assumed throughout that the finding of the Lower Courts upon the facts is correct, and that the property was at the time of the sale, in 1266, the joint property of the pl iff and the other members of the family. He says, however, that "the j ment of the Lower Court ought to b versed, and the suit ought to be dism It is admitted that Raj Kishore w manager of the joint estate up to 1270 that in that capacity he bought and properties on account of the joint e At the time of the sale of the prope question, the plaintiff was some 23 old; but he did not object to the sa allowed Raj Kishore and the purchas complete the transaction." The J then says: "I apprehend that the pu sers were justified in purchasing fro recognized manager, and that the pl was a consenting party to the sale, a bound by the acts of the defendant." then goes on to say that the plaintiff not recover possession of the prop which Raj Kishore sold while he the recognized manager and agent o family."

Now, we think that there would have very great force in these observations o Judge, if the defendants Hurro Soon and Lukhee Narainee had come befor on the appeal, and contended that they b the property in reliance on the repre ation implied by the conduct of the plaintiff in having been present at, a dissenting from, the sale. It is clear, ever, that these ladies have no real in whatever in this matter. They do not forward. They do not pretend that have any special right as purchasers Raj Kishore.

It is not the case of Raj Kishore th plaintiff consented to the sale of this perty as a portion of the joint pro There is no evidence whatever that he sented to the sale of this property a property of Raj Kishore. Whatever Hurro Soonduree Dassee and Lukhe rainee Dassee might have been able to on the presumption of the consent o plaintiff to the sale, we think that Kishore cannot found any right upon presumption, and that, upon the appeal o Kishore, the Judge ought not to have a decree in favor of those two ladies, themselves did not object by appeal to decision of the first Court.

We think, therefore, that the decision the Judge must be reversed, and the sion of the Lower Court restored with c as against the defendant Raj Kishore.

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The 1st May 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating ief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. C. Paul, *dge.*

Sub-lessees—Rights of occupancy.

Case No. 2625 of 1870.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Jessore, dated 14th September 1870, affirming a ion of the Moonsiff of Magoorah, d the 3rd December 1869.

l Komul Sein (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

nesh Shaikh (one of the Defendants), *Respondent.*

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Appellant.

Baboo Bipro Doss Mookerjee for Respondent.

holding for 12 years, a ryot does not acquire a of occupancy, if the land has been sub-let to him term, or year by year, by a ryot having a right upancy.

rman, C. J.—THE facts of this case follow :—

person of the name of Titooram Tantee a small quantity of land (it does not r how much) as tenant to the plaintiff ome years. In 1260 he under-let a on of the land to Danesh Shaikh and s, who are the defendants in the pre- uit. In 1275, Titooram being in ar- of rent absconded and relinquished enure, upon which the plaintiff brought it for possession against Danesh Shaikh others to get possession of the portion e land which had been under-let by ram Tantee to them. The plaintiff's hen is that the land was his property, hat it was under-let to the defendants tenant whose title has now expired. efore, unless the defendants can make ome title, the plaintiff must get a decree ossession.

he defendants show that since 1260 have been paying rent as tenants from to year to Titooram. The pottah ed to Titooram has not been put in— it does not appear what the nature of holding was.

I think it is impossible, upon the evidence as it stands, to assume that Titooram had any greater interest than that of a ryot having a right of occupancy. Now, a ryot cultivating or holding land for 12 years does not acquire a right of occupancy, if the land which he has been cultivating has been sub-let to him for a term, or year by year, by a ryot having a right of occupancy. That is the express provision of Section 6; and it appears to me probable that the facts of the present case bring it within the words of that enactment. If Titooram had any right greater than that which I have supposed, the defendants have failed to prove it; and it is for them to show that they have some title which they can set up as a bar to the plaintiff's right of absolute possession to the land in question.

For these reasons, it appears to us that the decisions of the Courts below must be reversed, and a decree will pass adjudging possession to the plaintiff of the piece of land in dispute with costs in all the Courts.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 2nd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Privy Council decree — Execution — Interest —Section 10, Act XXIII. of 1861.

Case No. 44 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Purneah, dated the 29th January 1870.

Rajah Ahmed Reza (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Khujoorunnisa (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

The Advocate-General and *Messrs. G. Gregory* and *C. Gregory* for Appellant.

Messrs. J. W. B. Money and *R. E. Twidal* for Respondent.

Where a decree of the Privy Council ordered possession with mesne-profits, but without interest:

HELD that the decree did not interfere with the power of the Judge who executed it to award interest under Section 10 of Act XXIII. of 1861 on the aggregate sum adjudged, and costs from the date of decree to date of payment.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is an appeal against the decision of the Judge of Purneah in the execution of a decree of Her Majesty in Council.

The decree directs that the appellant in the original suit, Syed Enayet Hossein, shall be "put into possession of 21-120ths of the "half of the zemindary, together with the "mesne-profits of the same, whereof an ac-"count is to be taken against the respond-"ent from the 16th February 1862, but "without interest."

After two several remands by this Court, the account has ultimately been taken, and has resulted in a final decree for Rupees 94,114 and 2 annas, with costs bearing interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum from the 8th of January 1870 till date of payment—the 8th January 1870 being the date of the final decree awarding such mesne-profits to the plaintiff.

From that decision, an appeal has been presented by the defendant, and two principal points have been taken.

The first is that, in estimating the mesne-profits, the defendants ought to have been allowed something for the wages of the amlah and servants engaged in making the collections.

The Judge has disposed of this matter by saying that in the decision of the High Court of the 30th November 1864* it is ruled that 10 per cent. cannot be allowed on the *mostajiri jumma* for amlah expenses, and he says: "This order is quite reasonable, "as the rents collected were not on the de-"hatee jumma, but on the mostajiri or "farming leases." He goes on to say: "This claim is put forward in addition to "those under objections 285 and 286, and is "most unreasonable, as the sum claimed as "a deduction is again entered in those two "objections." The High Court has already "ruled that such a claim is untenable, and "it is therefore rejected."

The appellant's Counsel has referred to the evidence taken in 1862, and which goes to show that the defendant's expenses for the servants employed in collecting the mostajiri jumma were at the rate of Rupees 1,5[illegible] monthly, which would bring up the expe[illegible] of collection to an amount much larger [illegible] what it would be if calculated at the rate [illegible] 10 per cent. on the gross collections.

Now, it is impossible to shut our eyes [illegible] the fact that, in making collections from [illegible]mers holding considerable tracts of land, [illegible] costs of collecting the rents and of keeping the account is very small. We think th[illegible] the Judge may be right in suppo[illegible] that all the expenses for the amlah requ[illegible] for this purpose were included under [illegible] item called "Miscellaneous expenditure c[illegible]tained in the jumma-khuruch account."

We observe that in the former decu[illegible] which was passed on the 15th June 18[illegible] the Judge refers to this miscellaneous [illegible]penditure or "durbar expenses" as "charg[illegible] "for stationery, cutcherry expenses, [illegible] "wages of amlah, servants, &c."

The details of this expenditure are [illegible] before us, and we are not in a position [illegible] say that the "miscellaneous expenditure" may not contain some items of charge [illegible] wages of servants employed in the cutcherry and in keeping the accounts, as distin[illegible] from the wages of servants employed [illegible] making the collections from the ryots [illegible] tenants of the land.

At any rate, if the "miscellaneous ex[illegible]penditure" does not include the cutcherry servants, so far as we can see the defenda[illegible] has not put forward any claim for the ex[illegible]penses of such servants, or attempted [illegible] support such claim by any evidence.

The defendant's claim seems to be pr[illegible]cisely that which the Court disallowed wh[illegible] put forward in another shape on a forme[illegible] occasion.

If this Court, when the matter was befo[illegible] it on the former occasion, had considere[illegible] that the defendant's claim for the wages [illegible] the zemindary servants at Rupees 1,50[illegible] per month could be sustained; and if the evi[illegible]dence of the witnesses examined in 186[illegible] had been treated as trustworthy, the Cou[illegible] would not have disallowed a claim at th[illegible] rate of Rupees 10 per cent., which woul[illegible] have been less than that which, if tho[illegible] witnesses are to be believed, the defenda[illegible] actually expended in making the collec[illegible]tions.

We think that this claim of Rupees 1,50[illegible] a month is preposterous, and it is the onl[illegible] one advanced by the defendant.

* 1 W. R., Misc., p. 20.

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e are disposed to think that he has been ed only too liberally in some of the ances that have been made to him.

he next point taken is that interest t not to be allowed from the date of inal decree for mesne-profits, because rivy Council did not allow interest.

ppears to us that this argument pro- npon a fallacy. The Privy Council e is that the appellant in the original he "put in possession of 21-120ths of half of the zemindary, together with sne-profits of the same, whereof an ac- nt is to be taken against the respondents m the 26th February 1862, *but with- interest.*" The order of the Privy cil, therefore, is that, in taking the ac- ts of the mesne-profits, interest on the rs of mesne-profits should not be allowed, accordingly such interest has not been ed. But the 10th Section of Act II. of 1861 empowers the Court, where of money is decreed to the plaintiffs, rd interest on the aggregate sum ad- d, and costs from the date of decree to of payment. Now, there is nothing in decree of the Privy Council which in- es with the power of the Judge to e the order which he has properly made r that Section.

e, therefore, dismiss the appeal with .

r. Money for the respondent has made objections which it is not now neces- to enter into.

ne of his objections might have been ed before, or it might have been brought e notice of the Court by application for iew. The matter has been long since osed of. Mr. Money's client did not ess any dissatisfaction with the order it was passed. It is too late to take any ction at this stage. It refers to the ex- es of the Emambara. His cross-appeal also be dismissed.

e modify the decree of the Lower Ap- te Court by allowing interest at the of 6 per cent. on the amount decreed. allow 25 gold mohurs as the costs of appeal.

The 2nd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Butwarra—Regulation XIX. of 1814—Title—Jurisdiction—Right of suit—Possession.

Case No. 2358 of 1869.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 27th July 1869, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Tegrah, dated the 29th January 1869.

Mr. H. Spencer (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Puhul Chowdhry and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. G. Gregory and *Baboos Umurnath Bose* and *Toolsee Dass Seal* for Appellant.

Mr. C. Gregory and *Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf* for Respondents.

The Revenue Authorities, acting under the butwarra law, have no jurisdiction to determine any disputed question of right and title in shares; and there is nothing in Regulation XIX. of 1814 or any other Regulation to bar the maintenance of a suit in a Civil Court for a declaration of plaintiff's right to a larger share than that recorded in his name after a butwarra in the paper of partition.

If the plaintiff in such a case can establish his title, and is not barred by lapse of time, he should not be denied the declaration sued for merely because he might have been ousted by the defendant under colour of the butwarra proceeding.

The Civil Court has no authority to interfere with the division of the land and jumma, which is a matter exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Revenue Authorities.

Mitter, J.—We are of opinion that the Lower Appellate Court has erred in holding that the failure of the plaintiff to appear before the Collector within the period prescribed by Clause 2, Section 4, Regulation XIX. of 1814, is sufficient to bar the maintenance of this suit.

It is true that Section 20 of that Regulation says, "The *determination* of the Board of Revenue or Board of Commissioners on the paper of partition shall be final." But this Section evidently refers to those questions only which can be legally *determined* by the authorities mentioned therein. Now, it is beyond all dispute that Revenue Authorities acting under the Butwarra Law have

jurisdiction to assess a certain jumma on certain shares, but have no jurisdiction to determine any disputed question of right and title in shares. It follows, therefore, that the provisions of Section 20 cannot be urged as a bar to the maintenance of the present suit so far as the question of right and title is involved in it; while, on the other hand, the Civil Court has no power to interfere with the division of the lands and jumma, which is a matter within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Revenue Authorities, and that portion of the plaintiff's prayer by which he seeks to have a re-distribution of the lands and Government revenue must, therefore, fall to the ground. But there is nothing in the Butwarra Law, or in any other Regulation that we are aware of, to prevent the Civil Court from entertaining this suit for the declaration of the plaintiff's right to a larger share than that recorded in his name in the paper of partition. Suppose, for instance, that a butwarra is made by the Collector at the instance of certain parties who have no real interest in the estate. Can it be contended that the real owner of that estate would be prevented by such a butwarra from bringing a civil suit for the establishment of his right, merely because he did not appear before the Collector within the fifteen days allowed by the second Clause of the fourth Section of the Regulation, and that even when he is fully prepared to show that his failure to do so arose from causes perfectly beyond his control, such as absence in a foreign country, minority, lunacy, &c.? Such a construction is no way warranted by the provisions of Section 20. This view was taken by a Division Bench of this Court in its decision in a Special Appeal No. 2420 of 1870, 20th of March 1871.*

It has been urged by the respondent that the plaintiff has to thank himself for the injury he complains of, inasmuch as there was nothing to prevent him from appearing before the Collector within the time required by law; and that this Court ought, therefore, to refuse to entertain his suit, which is one merely for declaration of title, in the exercise of the discretion vested in it by the 15th Section of the Code of Civil Procedure. This objection cannot be allowed at this last stage of the proceedings. It was not raised in the Court of first instance, and as that Court has given a decree to the plaintiff upon merits, it would be improper for us to dismiss this suit on the strength of a jection which, it must be admitted sides, does not affect the real justice case.

It has been further urged that the iff is not entitled to have his right in an undivided 2 annas 11 gundah 1 cowree share in the zemindaree, standing the butwarra which was made according to law; and as this is he has asked for in his plaint, the suit not be maintained in its present form. objection is a technical one only. Th no dispute as to the plaintiff's title annas and 10 gundahs share; and Revenue Authorities have assigned to h lieu of that share certain specific lands a certain amount of Government re assessed thereupon, none of the p litigant can complain if the plaintiff's to those lands is declared in this suit. real contest between the parties is about extra additional share of 1 gundah 1 cowree claimed by the plaintiff. the plaintiff can show that he is justly titled to that share also, and if at the time it is found to have been allotted by Revenue Authorities to any one of the fendants, we see no legal reason why Court should refuse in this suit to dec his title to the same, treating him as a holder to that extent only in the pute which it may have been so included. tice requires that our Courts should al try, as far as they legally can, to avoid ing multiplicity of litigation; and, in the sence of any valid objection affecting real merits of the case, we should be w to dismiss this suit merely for a mere fo defect in the plaintiff's prayer—a defect w can be easily cured by our decree wit interfering with the substantial rights any of the parties concerned in this li tion. If the plaintiff's allegations are c rect, there can be no doubt whatever t some of the defendants at least, if not all them, have got by the butwarra a la share than that to which they are justly titled; and there is nothing whatever the circumstances of this case to pre the Court from doing complete justice tween the parties by declaring in this suit that the plaintiff is entitled to the additional share in question out of the p assigned to those defendants by the warra.

* *Ante*, p. 291.

ly, it has been urged that there is no ctory proof that the plaintiff is still in sion of the additional share in ques- and as the suit is one for declaration of and confirmation of possession, the t is bound to dismiss it in the absence ch proof. This objection is founded a mistake. The plaintiff has given evidence to prove his possession. evidence is strongly corroborated by mony of several witnesses examined defendants themselves. But be this may, it is clear that this was not one of ues raised by the defendants in the of first instance, and they are not d to raise it now at this late stage of ause. If the plaintiff can show that a title to the additional share in ques- and that that title is not barred by lapse e, he should not be denied the decla- he has sued for, merely because he have been ousted by the defendants the colour of the butwarra-proceed-

e, therefore, remand this case to the Appellate Court for a decision upon erits with reference to the issues laid by the first Court, and with reference e issues only.

The 2nd May 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

ation for execution—Limitation—Section 7, Act XXIII. of 1861.

In the matter of

ck Chunder Chuckerbutty (Decree-holder), *Petitioner*,

versus

o Chunder Chuckerbutty (Judgment-debtor), *Opposite Party.*

Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Petitioner.

No one for Opposite Party.

ree-holder having allowed the term of 3 years to within a very few days of expiry before apply- execution, and then, though allowed 5 days to llubanah, having neglected to do so, his applica- was found to be not *bonâ fide:*

HELD that Section 7, Act XXIII. of 1861, did not apply to the case; that Section applying only to suits dismissed under the provisions of Section 5 of that Act.

Kemp, J.—THIS application for the admission of a miscellaneous special appeal must be rejected. It appears that, on the 26th March 1870, the applicant was told to deposit tullubanah within 5 days. He failed to do so, and on the 7th of April 1870 the execution-case was struck off. On the 17th April 1870 the applicant applied to have the case restored. It appears that the first Court allowed the case to be restored, but the Judge of Hooghly reversed that decision. The grounds given by the Judge we consider to be grounds with which we cannot interfere in special appeal. The Judge finds that the application of the 26th of March 1870, which, we may observe, was made when only a very few days remained of the 3 years allowed by law, was not a *bonâ-fide* application.

It is also clear that, on the 17th of April 1870, when the applicant asked for the restoration of the case, he was barred by limitation. It has been attempted in argument to show that Section 7, Act XXIII. of 1861, applies to the present case. On turning to that Section, we find that it applies only to suits dismissed under the provisions of Section 5 of that Act, that is to say, if it be found that the defendant has not been served with summons to appear on the day fixed for him to appear, and in consequence of the failure of the plaintiff to deposit within the time allowed him the sum necessary to defray the cost of service of the summons, the Court may order the suit to be dismissed. It is in such a case that Section 7 will apply, and under that Section the plaintiff is at liberty to satisfy the Court that there was a sufficient excuse for his not making the deposit.

Now, that Section clearly does not apply to this case. In this case, we have an applicant allowing his time for execution to run to within a very few days of 3 years before he makes any application at all. Then the application made is found not to be *bonâ fide.* Five days are allowed the petitioner to pay the tullubanah, and with the knowledge that his first application was made within a very short time of the expiry of the term of three years, he still neglects to pay tullubanah. We think that the Judge has held rightly that the application was barred, and we reject this application.

The 3rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Dependant talookdars—Regulation VIII. of 1793.

Case No. 2139 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Jessore, dated the 14th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of Baghat, dated the 30th November 1869.

Rajah Suttyanund Ghossal (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Huro Kishore Dutt and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Respondents.

The "dependant talookdars" mentioned in Regulation VIII. of 1793 are actual proprietors, not merely talookdars whose talooks are held under documents granted by proprietors which do not transfer property in the soil.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a suit to recover arrears of rent at an enhanced rate after service of notice under Section 13, Act X. of 1859.

The suit has been dismissed by the Lower Appellate Court upon the ground that the defendant's holding is a dependant talook. The Judge says, if the plaintiff considers himself entitled to enhance the rent of the defendant, he must proceed under Section 51, Regulation VIII. of 1793, and not under Act X. of 1859.

We are wholly unable to understand upon what ground the Judge supposes that the tenure, apparently created by the Soondurbuns Commissioner in 1257 under the name of an ousut talook while the land was in the possession of the Government as a khas mehal, can be treated as a dependant talook within the meaning of that term in Regulation VIII. of 1793. The "dependant talookdars" there spoken of are talookdars being actual proprietors of the lands composing their talooks, as described in Section 5 of that Regulation. Section 51 does not include talook dars whose talooks are under writings, sunnuds, or other docu granted by proprietors of lands whic not expressly transfer the property in soil. These persons, as will be seen Section 7, are treated under Regulation of 1793 as lease-holders only.

The defendant is clearly an under-t and if he is able to establish a right emption from enhancement when th goes back for trial before the Judge, be on some grounds of which we kno thing at present.

With these observations, we reman case to the Judge for trial.

The costs in the Lower Courts and of appeal will abide the ultimate result suit.

The 3rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Ju*

Lakheraj grants—Resumption—Section gulation XIX., 1793—Landlord and tena

Case No. 2549 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision pass the Judge of Moorshedabad, dated 22nd September 1870, affirming a sion of the Moonsiff of that Di dated the 29th June 1870.

Ranee Shama Soonduree Debia (Plain *Appellant,*

versus

Seetul Khan and others (Defendants *Respondents.*

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Sree Dass* for Appellant.

Baboo Pitumbur Chatterjee for Respondents.

Where grants for holding lands exempt from ment of revenue have been made since 1st Dec 1790, and the person who succeeds to the prop right in the estate takes possession under Secti Regulation XIX. of 1793, and dispossesses the g of his *proprietary right*, he is authorized and re to collect the rents from such lands at the rates pergunnah. A decree, therefore, declaring the dar's right to assess rent on lands held under grants, establishes, as between him and the pers possession, the relation of landlord and tenant.

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arman, C. J.—THIS is a suit for assess- of rent and for a kubooleut in respect rtain lands formerly held as lakheraj, in respect of which a decree in a suit esumption was passed in 1862, declar- them liable to be assessed to the pay- of rent, and the plaintiff's right to such rent.

e decree in that suit is in evidence. ites the substance of the plaint, which that, as the defendant held the lands in question as invalid lakheraj, the tiff brought his suit to resume and s the lands as *appertaining to the ta-* belonging to the plaintiff.

e Lower Courts have dismissed the tiff's suit, holding that a decree in a mption-suit under Regulation XI. of cannot create the relation of land- and tenant between the parties, and fore that this suit will not lie. They to a decision of the High Court in the of Madhub Chunder Bhadooree, re- d in the 12th Volume of the Weekly rter, p. 442.

m that decision there has been an l to this Court. In determining the tion of the liability of the defendant, continued in possession after the de- in the former suit to pay rent to the tiff, after notice, under Section 13 of X. of 1859, we must see what is the e of the right which the defendant in the lands in question. Now, on re- g to the decision in the 12th Weekly rter, page 442, and Regulation XIX. 793, Sections 6 and 9, it appears very ly that, where lands, not exceeding 100 ahs, alienated by a grant made prior to 1st of December 1790, are resumed r Regulation XI. of 1819, they become e to payment of *revenue;* and thereupon evenue assessable on such lands belongs e person responsible for the discharge e revenue of the estate. The land ad- ed to be subject to the payment of nue is to be considered as an inde- dent talook. Section 9 shows how evenue is to be assessed on resumed held under such a grant. The ce is to be ascertained by the proprie- whom the revenue is payable, who is mit the accounts of it to the Collector, the Collector is to fix the revenue to be from the lands in perpetuity, reporting matter for the confirmation of the Board Revenue. If the proprietor agrees to pay the revenue required of him, he and his heirs and successors are to *hold the lands on payment of such fixed revenue in perpetuity.*

It is clear, therefore, that a decree for resumption of lakheraj lands, held under an invalid grant prior to 1st December 1790, does not vest the proprietary right in the zemindar who resumes, or make the former lakherajdar liable to the payment of any *rent.* That is substantially the decision in the 12th Weekly Reporter, page 442.

But where grants for holding lands exempt from payment of revenue have been made since 1st December 1790, and the person who succeeds to the proprietary right in the estate, acting under the authority of the 10th Section of Regulation XIX. of 1793, takes possession, and *dispossesses* the grantee of his *proprietary right,* he is authorized and required to collect the *rents* from such lands at the rates of the Pergunnah. If, therefore, a decree in a suit declaring the right of the zemindar to assess rent on lands held under grant subsequent to 1st December 1790 is made, that decree establishes as between the person in possession of such land and the zemindar the relation of landlord and the person liable to pay rent to such landlord.

Then comes the question whether in the present suit this invalid lakheraj was lakheraj falling within the description of land held as rent-free under a grant prior to 1st December 1790, or whether it falls within the class of cases where the lakherajdar held under an invalid grant made subsequent to 1st December 1790. Now, by the decree in the resumption-suit, the land is adjudged as liable to be assessed to the payment of rent upon the grounds stated by the plaintiff in his plaint. Therefore, the decree on the face of it shows that it was adjudged that the land was part of the mâl estate of the zemindar.

Mr. Justice Ainslie, in a decision which has been very recently passed on the 25th April last,* has pointed out that, before the decision of Sonatun Ghose's case, reported in Volume II., Weekly Reporter, page 91, resumption-suits taking the form of suits under Regulation II. of 1819 were usually brought by zemindars to establish their

* *Ante,* p. 440.

right to assess rent upon invalid lakheraj land, whether such land was held under grants prior or subsequent to 1st December 1790. He says: "I do not think that we "can hold all such decrees to be void, or "that we are bound to hold that the existence "of a decree under Regulation II. of 1819 "establishes that the grant resumed was of "earlier date than 1st December 1790. "Granting that the Courts acted under a "mistaken view of the law, we cannot as-"sume, for the purpose of making those de-"crees technically good, a state of facts "which in many cases is contradicted by "the records."

I entirely concur with Mr. Justice Ainslie in thinking that the mere fact of a reference to Regulation II. of 1819, or that the procedure under Regulation II. of 1819 was adopted in part, does not show that the suit was a suit for lakheraj land held under a grant prior to the 1st December 1790.

In the present case, so far as I can see, there is nothing to lead to the inference that any grant prior to 1st December 1790 was ever set up by the defendant. If there is any doubt about it, I should be willing to remand the case to the Lower Court in order that an issue on that point might be tried. But I think there can be no reasonable doubt that this was not lakheraj land falling within the meaning of Sections 6 and 9 of Regulation XIX. of 1793. I entertain no doubt in my own mind, as a matter of fact, that in this case the grant set up must have been subsequent to December 1790; and therefore the defendant had no right to hold as a dependant talookdar, and to have the revenue assessed under Regulation XIX. of 1793.

The suit was properly brought under Act VIII. of 1869, and ought to be remanded under that Act. The appellant will get the costs of this appeal.

Loch, J.—I propose to add a few words to the judgment of the Chief Justice, as I was one of the Judges who passed the judgment reported in Volume XI., Weekly Reporter, page 442.

The special appellant has pointed out to us that the case now before the Court is not on all fours with that judgment; and I agree with him. We held in that case that, where proceedings have been taken under the provisions of Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, all such proceedings were proceedings for resumption of lands admittedly held u invalid lakheraj titles prior to Dece 1790; and that lands which are res under that law should be assessed as vided for by the old Regulation of But in the present case there can b doubt, from the form of the plaint, th plaintiff distinctly claims the land as of his talook, and that the defendan holding under an invalid lakheraj and he prayed to be allowed to it as part of his talook, and o ed a decree to assess it as such. therefore, clear that this was not a which came under Section 30 of Regu II. of 1819, but was one which co tried by a Civil Court, or under Sectio Act X. of 1859.

I think, therefore, there is no grou saying in this case, as the Lower Court done, that the suit for assessment is b by anything that has been stated i judgment reported in Volume XII., W Reporter, page 442. And I concur i order proposed by the Chief Justice the case should go back for trial upo merits.

Appellant will have his costs in th peal.

The 3rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. *Judges.*

Section 210, Act VIII., 1859—Execution ficate of administration.

Case No. 41 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order ed by the Officiating Judge of Pu dated the 21st December 1870.

Dunput Sing Bahadoor (Decree-hold *Appellant,*

versus

Ranee Rajessuree (Objector), *Respon*

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Rash Beh Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter for Respondent.

decree-holder is at liberty, under Section 210, Act of 1859, to follow his deceased judgment-debtor's rty in the hands of the parties in possession, notnding a certificate under Act XXVII. of 1860 een obtained by a third party.

yley, J.—An application was made by decree-holder that the widow and the hter of the late Rajah Rajendur Narain be made respondents in the case in ution of the decree held by him against aid Rajah.

e Judge remarks that there was a ter-contention on the part of the widow the daughter that the property of the h was not in their hands, but in those ishore Narain, the alleged adopted son e Rajah, and that a certificate was ed to the aforesaid Kishore Narain. Judge adds that he does not consider cessary to go into that question, inas- h as the order for the certificate has dis- d of it; and he considers that the order ring Kishore Narain to be the legal re- ntative is "*exclusive*," and virtually les that the applicants are not the legal sentatives.

ow, although we do not agree in what been above stated by the Judge taking an abstract proposition, we think that law has been sufficiently carried out in other substantial parts of the Judge's ment. The Judge says: "If the late jah's property or any portion of it is in hands of his wife and daughter, there o obstacle to the adoption of immedi- proceedings against that property itself, atever it may be." We think that, un- he provisions of Section 210, Act VIII. 59, the Judge is quite right in holding if the widow and the daughter of the h are in possession of the property left e Rajah, the decree-holder may follow property in their hands, notwithstanding tificate had been obtained by the adopted The words of the Section are: "If person against whom a decree has n made shall die before execution has n fully had thereon, application for cution thereof may be made against legal representative *or the estate of person so dying as aforesaid.*"

e are pressed with the plea that the ee-holder will be prejudiced by the tion of such course, because the person represents the property under the cer- te is a man of straw, but the question t whether the decree-holder can have substantial guarantee for the realization of his money, but whether the Judge is correct in law; and as stated above, we think that he has carried out the provisions of Section 210 in holding that the estate of the deceased may be proceeded against if in the hands of the widow and daughter.

In this view, we dismiss the appeal with costs.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 3rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Section 55, Act XX. of 1866—Jurisdiction—Section 243, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 82 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Subordinate Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 16th February 1871.

Kishen Coomaree Bibee (Judgment-debtor), *Appellant,*

versus

Golab Coomaree Bibee (Decree-holder), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Oopendro Chunder Bose* for Appellant.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Ashootosh Mookerjee* for Respondent.

Where the Lower Appellate Court passed a decree on a specially registered bond, setting aside an arrangement made by the first Court as to payment by instalments, and its order about interest:

Held that Section 55 of the Registration Act applied to the case, and that the High Court was competent in subsequent execution-proceedings to make an order under Section 243, Code of Civil Procedure, appointing a receiver or giving opportunity to the judgment-debtor to pay off the decree by mortgage of the estate.

Kemp, J.—This is a regular miscellaneous appeal from the decision of the Subordinate Judge of East Burdwan, refusing to appoint a receiver under Section 243 of Act VIII. of 1859. It appears that there are several decrees outstanding against the late Rash Beharry Baboo and Soorjya Coomaree. One of these decrees, or No. 285, was a

decree on a specially registered bond against the aforesaid Rash Beharry and Soorjya Coomaree, his daughter. The estate of the late Rash Beharry Baboo has now devolved on his minor son Bhyrub Chunder Baboo, and his mother and guardian Kishen Coomaree applies to have a receiver appointed under the aforesaid Section. With her application she puts in a schedule of the properties belonging to her minor son, and on turning to that schedule we find that the bulk of the property consists of towjee recorded estates paying large sums of revenue to Government. The gross receipts are given, the sudder jumma and the munaffa or net profits are also given in each case, and every facility was given to the decree-holder to test the accuracy of this schedule. We do not find, however, that any objection as to the existence of these properties or as to their not belonging to the minor was raised in the Court below; nor does the Subordinate Judge, in his decision refusing to appoint a manager, say that these properties do not belong to the minor, or that they do not yield the profits that they are said to yield. The Subordinate Judge only says that, after paying for the maintenance and education of the minor, the profits that would remain will not probably satisfy the judgment-creditor for a considerable time to come, and on that ground alone he refuses the appointment of a manager.

We think that this case is one in which the Subordinate Judge ought to exercise the discretion vested in him under Section 243, either by the appointment of a receiver, or by giving the minor time to raise by mortgage of the land or of a portion of the land a sufficient sum to satisfy his creditors. From the schedule filed it appears that the minor is entitled as the heir of his father to estates yielding a profit of say 15,000 rupees, and in right of inheritance from his mother to estates yielding a profit of about 5,000 rupees. The debts do not appear to exceed 2,000 rupees, and certainly under ordinary circumstances this is an estate which, if properly managed, ought to pay off this debt in a very short time.

It has been said by the pleader who appears for Golab Coomaree, the wife of Khetro Mohun Baboo, that the decree obtained by his client was a decree on a specially registered bond, and that this Court, in appeal, passed a decree setting aside the decree of the Lower Court which ordered satisfaction of the debt to be made by instalments, and s ting aside also the order of the Lower Co about interest; this Court having awar 12 per cent., and having set aside the rangement as to the payment of the debt instalments; and therefore it is said th we were to pass an order under Section we should be interfering with that dec We think that this is not the case, and the provisions of Section 55 of the Re tration Act distinctly apply to a case of description, and that this Court is compe to make such an order even in a case which the decree has been passed on a cially registered bond. The order w we pass is this, that the case be sent b to the Subordinate Judge. He will inq whether the schedule filed on behalf of minor is a correct one, and if the profits the estate are such as they are stated to in the schedule, he will, after making a p per allowance for the maintenance and e cation of the minor, which allowance m be made with reference to the profits as a with reference to the liabilities, and if also finds on inquiry that the estates are encumbered in any other way with the ception of these five decrees, namely, decrees Nos. 208, 212, 228, 225, and that he will pass either an order appoi a receiver under Section 243, or, if he satisfied that there is ground to believe the amount of these decrees may be ra by mortgage, he will give the minor's presentatives or guardians a reasonable t within which to raise the money due un these decrees by mortgage.

It appears to us that to sell up the nor's estate without giving him an opp tunity of liquidating his debts from th estates, the profits of which are more th ample to liquidate those debts within a short period, would not be just or prop We therefore reverse the order of the S ordinate Judge, and remand the case to disposed of with reference to the above marks.

d

The 3rd May 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onoo-kool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

ozashta tenures (Bhowlee or Nukdee)—Rights of occupany—Rent in kind.

Case No. 2343 of 1870.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Shahabad, dated the 3rd gust 1870, reversing a decision of the onsiff of Arrah, dated the 31st De-ber 1868.

Jutto Moar (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

nssamut Basmuttee Kooer and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

aboo Kalee Kishen Sein for Appellant.

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Respondents.

owlee tenure may be a goozashta tenure; and who pays rent in kind and is in possession of, vates, land for a period of 12 years, has a right pancy in the land so held or cultivated by him, as he pays the rent in kind for the same.

ookerjee, J.—THIS case was once before Court. It was remanded by Bayley Kemp, JJ, on the 5th April 1870, to Judge of Shahabad, who was asked to the case out of the file of the Subordi- Judge, Mr. DaCosta, who decided the al.

he Judge has now dismissed the suit, reversed the decision of the Moonsiff, had decreed the claim of the plaint-

he suit was instituted by plaintiff for ession of 4 beegahs of land out of 32 ahs purchased by plaintiff's father as goozashta tenure of one Tribhoobun h, sold in execution of a decree for rent ned by the Collector against the said bhoobun Singh. It is alleged that plaint- father, having purchased this jote Tribhoobun on the 1st October 1860, held possession of the disputed 4 beegahs for several years until dispossessed by defendant No. 1 in 1273.

The main contention of the defendant was that the tenure is not a goozashta tenure, that it was a portion of a tenure held on a temporary lease, and that the tenure was abandoned on account of the poverty of the former tenant.

The Court of first instance gave a decree to the plaintiff. The Judge has now set aside this decree, and dismissed the entire suit with costs.

It is contended in special appeal that the Judge is wrong in holding that a bhowlee tenure cannot be a goozashta tenure; secondly, that supposing goozashta means a tenure, the rent of which is fixed, yet a bhowlee tenure may be a goozashta one; thirdly, that a goozashta tenure is simply an ancient tenure, the holder of which has a right of occupancy; and, lastly, that according to the finding of the Judge which declares a right of occupancy, plaintiff is entitled to a decree.

On referring to the plaint and the contention of the plaintiff in the Courts below, we find that, though the plaintiff uses the term goozashta, he seeks for an adjudication and declaration of no other right than a right of occupancy as a goozashta or old tenant. The first Court says that "the "witnesses examined by plaintiff as well as "those examined by defendant have proved "the cultivation and goozashta holding of "Tribhoobun Singh, and that the principal "defendant has adduced no oral or documen-"tary evidence in proof of the temporary "and three years' settlement with Tribhoo-"bun Singh."

The learned Judge does not seem to differ with the Moonsiff as to his finding of the long and ancient possession of Tribhoobun. He says that the "defendant's witnesses "depose that the land in suit was Tribhoo-"bun's jote, and was held by his father and "grandfather before him, that it is now two "years held partly by the defendant and "partly by others of the maliks. There is "no admission of goozashta right, though "there is an implication of a right of oc-"cupancy by the family of Tribhoobun." He likewise states that "plaintiff's oral "proof is that of three witnesses. They "all say the land purchased was Tribhoo-

"bun's goozashta, and that it was a bhowlee "tenure. If a bhowlee tenure, how was "it goozashta—a tenure which is a hold-"ing in perpetuity at a fixed rent?

"It is argued for plaintiff that plaintiff's "meaning is a simple right of occupancy "at a fair rate, but such is not his plaint in "which he claims under goozashta right."

The Judge also concurs with the Moonsiff in his finding that the "defendants "have wholly failed to prove that a tempo-"rary settlement was made with the defend-"ant."

I think the Judge is wrong in his interpretation of the plaint. What the plaintiff asks is simply a declaration of a right of occupancy, and he calls that right a goozashta right, which ordinarily implies nothing more or less than a right of an old tenant, whose tenancy could not be determined at the will or caprice of the zemindar.

I cannot understand what ground the Judge had to hold that a bhowlee tenure cannot be a goozashta tenure, or that a goozashta tenure must be a tenure at a fixed rent. If this finding had been based on any evidence in the case as to the meaning of the term goozashta in that part of the country, I would not have been inclined to hold that the Judge is wrong in his definition of that word. But it is admitted by the pleaders for the respondent that there is no such evidence adduced by either party, and that there is none to be found in the record.

Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that the Judge is wrong, and that a goozashta tenure may or may not be a tenure at a fixed rent. The plaint does not state that the tenure, the possession of which the plaintiff claims in this case, is a tenure which has a rent fixed on it which cannot be altered, and the contention of the pleaders for the appellant both before the Lower Courts and here is that they have no such right, but that point is not now before us.

I am also clearly of opinion that a bhowlee tenure can be a goozashta tenure. A ryot who has paid rent in kind, but who had held or cultivated land for a period of 12 years, has a right of occupancy in the land so held or cultivated by him so long as he pays the rent (though it be in kind) for the same. I do not think that it makes the slightest difference in the right of occupancy of a ryot whether he paid rent in money or kind.

The rent in money is a rent fixed on certain proportion of the value of the a produce of the land. But in cases the zemindars could not come to any understanding as to the money-value produce, they allow the rent to be paid division of the produce itself. In both the man who pays the rent is a ryot; he is allowed to hold and cultivate the for twelve years, he acquires a right of pancy. Tribhoobun, therefore, accordi the finding of the Judge, was a ryot had acquired a right of occupancy. plaintiff, therefore, would, on accou long and ancient possession, be entit succeed in this case.

I am also not prepared to hold that a who has since the permanent settle paid a certain fixed proportion of the duce of the land to the zemindar ca say that his tenure is a "holding in p tuity at a fixed rent." It is, however, tended here for the first time by the resp ent that, even if Tribhoobun had a with rights of occupancy, that the tran it to plaintiff's father was invalid, inasm as it has not been proved that the jote a transferable one. This objection never raised in any of the Courts be and consequently the plaintiff had no op tunity of adducing evidence to show the jote in question is a transferable It is not fair to raise the plea for the time in a Court of law, especially an plea cannot be disposed of by this C without a remand, and without giving opportunity to the plaintiff to prove either by the custom of the country, nature of the tenure, or by the consen the then zemindar, the transfer was *Primâ facie*, we observe that the Colle had put up the tenure of Tribhoobun to and he could not have sold it if it was transferable. I do not think that it wo be proper for us to entertain this plea at stage of the case, especially when the peal was once before a Division Bench, the defendant did not ask that Bench direct the Lower Court to try this objec It appears to me that this plea is purely after-thought advanced now in the hope getting a remand of the case. Both Courts having decided that the pleas m by the defendant and the allegations c tained in his written statement are wh unfounded and supported by no evide

ever, the defendant raises the objection the case has passed through no less four Courts. As both the Courts are of on that the evidence of witnesses pro- d by plaintiff as well as by defendant that the jote is an old jote held by oobun and his ancestors, and the wit- s for the plaintiff call it a goozashta , and as it is admitted by the pleader e plaintiff that in this case he only for a declaration of his right of occu- , I think the Judge was bound to give aintiff a decree.

ese tenures are mostly found at Shaha- where they are frequently held on pay- of rent in kind (bhowlee). They are litary and transferable. The Judge ars to me to be entirely wrong when he it down that a "bhowlee tenure can- be a goozashta tenure." I would re- the order of the Judge, and decree ppeal with all costs.

acpherson, J.—I also am of opinion that decree of the Lower Appellate Court ld be reversed, and the decree of the nsiff restored and affirmed, and that the ellant should have his costs in all the rts.

he Judge is clearly wrong in thinking the tenure, because bhowlee, cannot be zashta. As I understand it, goozashta res in Shahabad are as frequently bhow- as nukdee. They are usually held at a d proportion of its crops, and are here- y and transferable. They may be said holdings with right of occupancy at a d rate, although the fixity of the rate in some cases be broken through practi- y by occasional conversion from bhowlee nukdee, and from nukdee to bhowlee, or like.

The 3rd May 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

tion-purchaser at a revenue-sale—Putnee—ght of action—Under-tenures—Rights of der-tenants—Acquiescence.

Case No. 2467 of 1870.

cial Appeal from a decision passed by e Additional Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, dated the 29th June 1870, versing a decision of the Moonsiff of Sathanea, dated the 10th December 1869.

Sreemunt Ram Dey (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Kookoor Chand (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Aukhil Chunder Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Sreenath Banerjee for Respondent.

When an auction-purchaser at a sale for arrears of revenne creates a putnee, he cannot sue to annul an under-tenure within that putnee, as his whole power under Act XI. of 1859 passes to the putneedar who alone can institute such a suit.

In such a case the putneedar's competency to sue is not affected by the fact of his being a tenant of only a portion of the estate, provided that portion contains the tenure which is sought to be resumed.

A putneedar, under such circumstances, though he may recover rent, is not entitled to eject an under-tenant who had been allowed to dig a tank and remain in possession undisturbed by the former proprietor for a long period (say upwards of 30 years), and who must therefore be assumed to have held with the acquiescence of the former proprietor—such acquiescence being equivalent to a lease.

Ainslie, J.—THE dispute in this case is a certain tank measuring 2 kanees and 19 gundahs. The plaintiff claimed it as belonging to Turruf Radhasham purchased at a revenue-sale by his zemindar, who gave him a putnee lease of a portion of the zemindaree on the 30th Assar 1230, M. S. The defendant contended that this tank was not in that turruf at all, but in turruf Joy Narain, and that it was dug by his ancestor Joy Narain.

The Moonsiff found that this tank was situated within the plaintiff's lessor's estate. The Subordinate Judge seems to have accepted that finding. He says: "It may be true that the pond is situated within the aforesaid turruf." But he goes on to show that it is not included within the putnee lease given to the plaintiff. In this it appears that the Subordinate Judge was wrong. On reading the lease, we find that the zemindar gave a putnee lease of 6 kanees 12 gundahs and 1 cowrie. Of this, 2 kanees 19 gundahs were stated to be waste, and the remainder 3 kanees 13 gundahs 1 cowrie was assessed at 5½ rupees per kanee; and there was a further stipulation that, if the waste land should become fit for cultivation, rent at the same rate should be paid for that.

There appears to be no dispute that the tank in dispute does represent 2 kanees 19 gundahs stated to be waste in the lease. Now, it is quite clear that, although no rent was fixed at the time the lease was executed, still the land was given to the present plaintiff under the lease, so that, if at any time it should become of value, he should enjoy the profits from it, paying rent as fixed in the lease.

It has been objected on the other side that the claim is barred by limitation; that the plaintiff is not an auction-purchaser, and that he has not the special authority given by Section 37, Act XI. of 1859, to an auction-purchaser, and therefore he is not entitled to maintain this suit; further that, if a putneedar of a whole estate can maintain the suit, the putneedar of a portion cannot do so; and, lastly, that under Clause 4, Section 37, Act XI. of 1859, an auction-purchaser has no power of ejecting a tenant from land on which a tank has been dug.

We think there is no doubt whatever that an auction-purchaser can sue within twelve years of the date of his purchase to recover any land that was originally included within the estate sold for arrears of revenue. When he created a putnee in favor of the present plaintiff, it is quite clear that he could not sue to annul an under-tenure within that putnee, and that no one but the putneedar could do so; and we see no reason to think that the whole power of the auction-purchaser under Act XI. of 1859 did not pass to the putneedar. As to the putneedar being only a tenant of a portion of the estate, that is perfectly immaterial: he is a tenant of that portion of the estate which contains the tenure which is sought to be resumed. But we think that the plaintiff is not entitled to take actual possession of the land in suit; that inasmuch as Joy Narain was allowed to dig this tank, and to remain in possession undisturbed by the former proprietor for upwards of 30 years, if he is to be taken a tenant at all, it must be assumed that he was holding with the acquiescence of the previous proprietor, and this acquiescence must be treated as equivalent to a lease. We, therefore, declare that the plaintiff is entitled to recover rent in respect of the tank, and not to eject the defendant.

Each party will bear his own costs of this appeal.

The 4th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Offic Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble Ono Chunder Mookerjee, *Judge*.

Hindoo Law—Sapindas—Inheritan

Case No. 5 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision pas the Additional Judge of Nuddea, da 22nd September 1870, affirming a d of the Moonsiff of that District, dat 31st January 1870.

Khettur Gopal Chatterjee (Plaintif *Appellant*,

versus

Poorno Chunder Chatterjee and ano (Defendants), *Respondents*.

Baboo Bipro Doss Mookerjee for App

Baboo Grish Chunder Mookerjee f Respondents.

Amongst sapindas, the nearest sapinda exclu more remote.

Norman, C. J.—THE plaintiff's cl this. One Bissessur Roy died leav widow, a mother, and four nephews, being the children of one sister and another. On the death of Bisses widow Brohmo Moyee succeeded to th perty. On the death of Brohmo the mother Mussamut Bhugobutty succ to the property. On the death of butty, Dino Nath and Huree Nath, the sister's sons, being then dead, Nath and Poorno Chunder, as heirs ing to Hindoo Law, obtained pos The plaintiff's claim is that he, bei grandson of a sister of Bissessur, had to succeed as a co-heir with the two ing sister's sons My learned colleag Justice Mookerjee, has stated that w have always understood to be the r such cases in a clear and concise fo saying that, amongst sapindas, the sapinda excludes those more remote. being so, it is clear that the plaintiff h title.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

h

. The 4th May 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

heraj — Resumption — Decree — Assessment Procedure — Reg. XIX. of 1793 — Section 30, g. II., 1819.

No. 2415 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

al Appeal from a decision passed by Officiating Judge of Mymensingh, dat- the 25th August 1870, reversing a deci- n of the Deputy Collector of Kishore- nge, dated the 31st March 1870.

G. N. Pogose and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

yud Ekram Hossein (Defendant), *Respondent.*

C. Gregory and *Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss* for Appellants.

H. E. Mendies and *Baboo Gopal Lall Mitter* for Respondent.

s the holder of a resumption-decree takes steps egulation XIX. of 1793 to have the revenue fixed Collector, and the defendant consents to pay the required of him, he has no *locus standi,* on hold- lands, to bring suits for rent.

ule to be followed in determining in what man- d under what Regulation, the assessment of re- akheraj land should be conducted is first to as- whether the existence of the lakheraj prior to s been decided by the decree for resumption. It be presumed that every case instituted under 30, Regulation II. of 1819, dealt with an estate as held lakheraj prior to 1790.

kson, J.—This was a suit under Act 1859 to assess rent on lands in the ion of the defendants. The plaintiff eviously brought a suit to resume the hich the defendant had been holding -free, and had obtained a decree, and ought to assess that land with rent. udge of Mymensingh has dismissed laintiff's suit, because the plaintiff ken no further steps under the pro- s of Section 9, Regulation XIX. 93, to have the revenue fixed by the Collector. Until he proceeds under that Regulation, and the defendant consents to pay the revenue required of him, the plaintiff has no *locus standi* as holding the lands in question to bring suits for rent. The decision of the High Court, Weekly Reporter, Volume XII., page 426, appears to be exactly in point.

It is stated on special appeal that the suit for assessment was properly brought in the Collector's Court, inasmuch as the invalidity of the lakheraj title had been proved in the Civil Court, and there was no evidence to prove that the lakheraj in question had arisen out of a grant previous to 1790.

It appears that in the Court of the Deputy Collector, before whom this case was originally tried, no objection was raised to the mode in which it was sought to assess the defendant's land; but the objection was raised for the first time before the Judge. It was a question as to jurisdiction, and was therefore properly considered by the Judge.

As I understand the law, there are two modes of assessment in the case of resumed lakheraj estates. The first is that which has been laid down for estates held lakheraj prior to the year 1790, which is to be found in Section 9, Regulation XIX. of 1793. On such estates the revenue had not been assessed, and the Collector was accordingly enjoined to fix the revenue at which the lakherajdar should hold his estate. It seems to be immaterial whether such lakheraj estate was held under a known grant or not. Any resumed lakheraj estate which was a lakheraj estate prior to 1790 would come within the provisions of Section 9, Regulation XIX. of 1793. The 10th Section of that Regulation deals with all lands held lakheraj under a grant subsequent to 1790, and it has been always considered that it presumably includes the case of all lands which are claimed as lakheraj, but which are ascertained not to have been held as lakheraj prior to 1790. Upon these it was considered that the revenue had been assessed, and the zemindar was accordingly directed of his own accord to resume them and assess them with rents—a law which was subsequently modified by Section 28, Act X. of 1859, which directed the zemindar not to resume of his own accord, but to apply to the Collector's Court for authority to resume and for the fixing of the assessment.

The contention which was raised before the Judge by the defendant here was, that the present case came within the former of the two above descriptions of lakheraj estates, whereas it was alleged for the plaintiff that it came within the latter. No issue had been fixed upon the point. Consequently no evidence had been adduced to it. The resumption-decree had been put in, but not the judgment, and the resumption-record had not been sent for. The Judge decided the case upon the decree, following, as I understand him to have done, the reasoning of Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitter in the case in the 12th Volume, Weekly Reporter. It is, however, quite impossible to state whether the two cases are analogous. We do not know what was stated in the decree which was before Mr. Justice Mitter, and it is quite possible that, from the facts which were before that learned Judge, he and his colleague were satisfied that the lakheraj estate they were dealing with was one which existed prior to 1790, notwithstanding some allusions contradicting the fact in the decree. It does not at all follow that such a construction must be put upon the decree in this case. I do not concur with Mr. Justice Mitter that it must be presumed that every case instituted under Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, dealt with an estate which was held lakheraj prior to 1790. As a fact, I have no doubt whatever that resumption-suits were brought under Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, with respect to estates held lakheraj both subsequent to 1790 and prior to that date. This was the course followed, because in numerous cases the zemindars were not aware of the title which would be set up in support of the lakheraj; and though in cases where the zemindar knew that the estates had been held lakheraj subsequent to 1790 he had the power to resume and assess himself, still he also knew that his right would be contested, and he preferred the more regular mode of establishing his rights in the Courts of law. It is true, it may not have been necessary in such cases to resort to Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, but, as a matter of fact, this was the procedure followed, and it was a procedure allowed even up to the Sudder Court. The zemindar cannot, therefore, I hold, by instituting his suit under Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819, be held to have admitted that the lakheraj was in existence prior to 1790; nor could any such inference be drawn merely from the procedure being that laid down in that Regulation.

The rule which I think should be fo ed in determining in what manner and der what Regulation the assessme resumed lakheraj estates should be ducted is first to ascertain whether existence of the lakheraj prior to 179 been decided by the decree for resu between the parties or not. If it ha so decided, there is an end of the The assessment must be conducted Section 9, Regulation XIX. of 17 the question has not been decided resumption-decree, it is still an open tion, and must be decided before the ment is commenced. In the case be fore us, the decree does not decide the tion, and there is no evidence even to that the suit was instituted under S 30, Regulation II. of 1819. Even if it I would hold that that fact was no co sive evidence upon the issue. I would, remand this case to the Judge, and him to lay down an issue on the point, ther the lakheraj which it is sought sess under Act X. of 1859 was one the provisions of Section 28 of that I understand that this is a suit to under that Act. It is for the plain make out that the Court to which he ap has jurisdiction to entertain his suit. may prove it by the judgment passed resumption-suit, or if that is silent on point, as I understand it is in this case an unofficial copy of the judgment has been read to us, the plaintiff must it by some other evidence.

Each party will pay his own costs o appeal.

Ainslie, J.—I agree with Mr. J Jackson in holding that it cannot be sumed that every case instituted under tion 30, Regulation II. of 1819, dealt estates held as lakheraj prior to 1790. contrary is notoriously the fact, as distinctly stated in Khelat Chunder G case, 2 Weekly Reporter, page 259.

I also agree in thinking that the which should be followed in determinin what manner and under what Regul the assessment of resumed lakheraj should be conducted is, first, to asce whether the existence of the lakheraj to 1790 has been decided by the decre resumption between the parties or not.

It was admitted by the pleader fo appellant that the resumption-decree

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was made under Section 30, Regula- II. of 1819, though it is not so stated face of the decree, and the decree not show the nature of the tenure. these circumstances, it seems to me ary to look at the judgment, and per- the proceedings, to find out what ure was which was resumed. These are not with the record, and conse- we cannot dispose of the case at , and a remand is necessary.

The 4th May 1871.

Present :

Hon'ble F. A. Glover and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

of right of appeal—Status of Purchaser.

Case No. 2438 of 1870.

Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dated 28th May 1870, reversing a decision the Moonsiff of Mozuffurpore, dated 24th January 1870.

dhur Pershad (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

sh Tewaree and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Gopal Lall Mitter for Appellant.

Chunder Madhub Ghose for Respondents.

urchaser of a right of appeal is not competent to appeal in his own name, and only obtains a by making the party who had originally the appeal a party to the appeal.

—Can a right of making a special appeal be execution?

er, J.—A PRELIMINARY objection is to the hearing of this special appeal, think it must be allowed.

plaintiff, it appears, sued Shamrun and others for khas possession of land. The defendants admitted plaintiff's right to get rent, but denied his right to manual possession. The plaintiff lost his case in the first Court, but gained it on appeal to the Subordinate Judge on the 28th of May 1870.

On the 30th of the month, the rights and interests of the defendants in the decree were sold at an execution-sale, and bought by Gujadhur Pershad, who at once preferred this special appeal.

I am of opinion that he cannot maintain it. I am very doubtful, in the first place, whether a right of making a special appeal is a thing that can be sold in execution; but if it be, the purchaser could not bring the appeal alone. He ought at the least to have joined the original appellant's name to his own, and have applied to the Court to have them so joined. There is no Section in the Civil Procedure Code that provides for the purchaser of a right of appeal bringing that appeal in his own name He seems, on the contrary, only to obtain a status by joining himself on to the party in the suit who had originally the right of appealing, and the Court would decide under Section 73 of the Code whether such junction could properly take place. There ought to be some power of putting a stop to merely speculative litigation.

The case of Judooputty Chatterjee *versus* Chunder Kant Bhuttacharjee, 9 Weekly Reporter 309, though not exactly in point with the present case, is analogous, and seems to lay down the proper course of procedure.

I think that this special appeal should be rejected on the preliminary point taken by the special respondent's pleader, and with costs.

Mookerjee, J.—I am of the same opinion. The appellant is a purchaser of the rights of the defendant in an execution-sale held after the decision of the Lower Appellate Court. I do not find any provision in Act VIII. of 1859 authorizing or empowering a purchaser to prefer an appeal against a decision passed in the presence of plaintiff and defendant without joining the defendant as co-appellant or respondent in the appeal. The appellant does not appear in the record as a party to the suit. I do not think that he has any right to prefer this appeal without joining the defendant as a party.

The 5th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Judgment-creditor's lien—Execution.

In the Matter of

Huree Mohun Paramanick, *Petitioner.*

Mr. J. S. Rochfort for Petitioner.

A mortgagee taking out a money-decree not bound to bring one suit for the whole of the property belonging to his judgment-debtor, if it has passed to different parties under separate title-deeds; but may follow the property upon which he has a lien into the hands first of one purchaser and then of another.

Loch, J.—We think that there are no grounds for admitting the special appeal.

It has been urged before us that the suit has been brought under the provisions of Section 7, Act VIII. of 1859.

It appears that the plaintiff in this case has recovered a money-decree against Doorga Pershad Chatterjee, who had mortgaged certain property to him. After obtaining this money-decree, he appears to have found out that this property under mortgage was in the hands of the another person named Bipin Behary; and in 1864 he proceeded against that other person in order to enforce his lien upon the lands which that person had purchased, and obtained a decree against him, and in execution sold the property. He then brought a suit, and got a decree against the present defendant, the petitioner before us, who is also purchaser of some of the lands mortgaged to the plaintiff; and it is here now pleaded that the plaintiff was bound. when he brought the former suit against Bipin Behary, to have included the whole of the property as it stood when it was mortgaged to him by Doorga Pershad Chatterjee.

We think that, though such a suit might have been heard, and not been dismissed for multifariousness, yet the plaintiff, in the course he took in following the property belonging to his debtor upon which he had a lien into the hands first of one purchaser and then of another, acted in perfect conformity with law. He was not bound to bring one suit for the whole of that property which was held by different parties under separate title-deeds. He had a right to bring one property to sale; and if the proceeds of sale were sufficient to satisfy debt, further proceedings against the debtor's property in the hands of other parties would be unnecessary; but if the proceeds of that sale were not sufficient to liquidate his debt, he had a right to go against the rest of the mortgaged property in the hands of other purchasers from the vendor.

We think, therefore, that this objection raised before us against the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is not good.

The second plea raised is as to the plea of limitation; and here the petitioner fails to make good his case. He argues that the plaintiff is not entitled to a period of twelve years for preferring his suit, but only to six years.

As this, however, is a suit for enforcing an interest in land, we do not see why twelve years' limitation should not apply, and we think that the petitioner's counsel is wrong in pleading that the plaintiff's cause of action should commence from the date of the plaintiff's obtaining his decree. The cause of action in this case should be reckoned from the date on which he met with opposition on the part of the person in possession and his bringing the property to sale for the liquidation of the remainder of his debt.

We think it unnecessary to refer to the question of fraud, to which the pleader for the petitioner has referred, as the Lower Appellate Court has stated that that plea was given up.

We reject the application.

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The 5th May 1870.

Present:

Hon'ble G. Loch and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

tration—Section 84, Act XX. of 1866—Evi-ce—Right of suit—Declaratory decree—se of action.

Case No. 30 of 1871.

l Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of Moorshedabad, dated the 21st cember 1870. affirming a decision of the bordinate Judge of that District, dated e 3rd October 1870.

Proounno Coomar Sandyal (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mothoora Nath Banerjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

boos Mohendro Nath Shome and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Appellant.

boos Rash Behary Ghose and *Aubinash Chunder Banerjee* for Respondent.

a case in which, on an application made under Sec-84, Act XX. of 1866, the party alleged to have exe-d the document presented for registration did not y execution, but said that he had been compelled to cute it, and the Judge, not thinking the objection cient, directed that the deed should be registered: n that it was not necessary for the Judge to take ence before directing registration.

e mere registration of a document does not pre-a party from bringing a suit to contest the fact of execution.

e registration of an istemraree pottah limiting a ord's rent, the execution of which he denied, was to raise a cloud on his title sufficient to warrant a for its removal.

Loch, J.—In this case, the plaintiff sued have an istemraree pottah put forward the defendant declared a forgery; and states that he never executed the deed.

The first Court which tried the case held t the document was proved to be genuine, d dismissed the suit.

An appeal was preferred to the Judge, o held that, as the document had been ly registered under the provisions of Act . of 1866, it was not open to a Civil urt to entertain a suit to question the ct of the execution of the deed.

A special appeal has been preferred; and the first ground taken before us was that, as no evidence had been taken when the Judge directed the document to be registered under the provisions of Section 84, Act XX. of 1866, the Court could inquire into the fact of execution; and it was urged that the Judge was wrong in considering that he could not take evidence under the provisions of that Section.

We think that this contention is of no consequence in the present case. It is very true that, under the provisions of Section 84 of Act XX. of 1866, the Judge, as held by the High Court in the case of Sunkur Dobey,* was competent to take evidence where the execution of the deed was denied. But it is not necessary in all cases for a Judge to take evidence if he be satisfied, either from examination of the parties or from anything else that is before him, that the document was really executed.

Now, when this application under the provisions of Section 84, Act XX. of 1866, came before the Judge, he found that, though the plaintiff objected to the registration, he did not deny that he had executed the document. He said that he had been compelled to execute it, but the Judge, thinking this objection insufficient, directed that the deed should be registered. Such being the case, we think it was not necessary for the Judge to take evidence before directing the registration of the deed.

Then it is urged that the Judge was wrong in considering that he had no authority to inquire into the execution of the deed. We think that this contention is good. A case has been cited to us, reported at pages 329-330 of Volume X., Weekly Reporter, as if what is said there laid down that the execution of a deed once registered under the provisions of Section 84 of Act XX. of 1866 could not be inquired into by a Civil Court; when all that that judgment says is that, as the deed of sale in that case had been registered after inquiry had been made by a competent Court under the provision of Section 84 of Act XX. of 1866, and as the deed had been ordered to be registered, the plaintiff had no ground for asking to have that kobalah declared fictitious and void, until by some wrongful act by which the plaintiff was injured he found it necessary to come into Court and ask for relief. And therefore in that case the Court declin-

* 12 W. R., pp. 385, 500.

ed to give him a declaration with regard to the deed, holding that he had not up to that time been injured. But it is clear from the judgment in Sunkur Dobey's case that the order for registration does not determine the rights of the parties. The Chief Justice in that case says:* "But the object being that "the Judge should merely decide whether "the document should be put on the regis- "try or not, and not to determine the rights "of the parties, the Section directs that "the Court may, if it thinks proper, order "the Registrar or Registrar-General to re- "gister the document." "The mere re- "gistration of a document does not affect "the title of the parties. It is still only a "document which has been registered; and "if the party wishes to enforce the docu- "ment by suit, the mere fact of registration "does not preclude the Civil Court from "trying whether the document was execu- "ted or not."

In the view taken by the Chief Justice, I quite concur; and it appears to me that there can be no doubt that the mere registration of a document does not prevent a party from bringing a case to contest the fact of its execution.

But it is said in this case that no cause of action has arisen; and that, under the judgment just quoted from page 330, Volume X., Weekly Reporter, the suit should be thrown out, because there is no cause of action to the plaintiff, as he has suffered no injury.

Now, no doubt, a cloud has been thrown upon the plaintiff's title. He says that these lands are held by the defendants; that they are merely ordinary tenants; that he obtained a decree for the rent of those lands at 66 rupees per annum, but that the defendants have now put forward and obtained an order for registration of an istemraree pottah which limits the rent to 33 rupees. I think this certainly injuriously affects the rights of the plaintiff.

I am of opinion, therefore, that the plaintiff is entitled to ask that the cloud thrown on his title to the property may be removed; and that the Lower Appellate Court should not have rejected his application, on the ground that, under the provisions of Section 84 of Act XX. of 1866, it could not inquire into the fact of the execution of the deed, and I am not aware of any single judgment of this Co in which it has been ruled that in cases this kind it is not open to a Civil Court determine any question to the execu even of a registered deed.

I think the case should go back to Lower Appellate Court, and the J should decide whether the document pounded by the defendant is a genuine ment or not.

The costs will follow the result.

Mookerjee, J.—This was an action bro by the plaintiff in the Court of the Su dinate Judge of Moorshedabad to hav certain mokurruree istemrarree pottah leged to have been granted by him to defendant, bearing date the 9th Srabun 1 declared an invalid document on the gro that he has never executed the same. defence was that the plaintiff had exec the pottah; that he received a bonus of rupees from defendant, and that he admi the execution before the District Ju where he, however, falsely alleged that pottah had been extorted from him duress. It appears that the defendant p sented this pottah to the Sub-Registrar registry. The Sub-Registrar, however, fused to register it, whereupon the defe ant moved the District Judge under Sec 84 of Act XX. of 1866, who ordered document to be registered.

Plaintiff has now instituted this suit fo declaration to the effect that the pottah forgery, inasmuch as he has never e cuted it.

The first Court dismissed the suit of plaintiff, being of opinion that the po had been really and actually executed the plaintiff in defendant's favor, and th has not been extorted from plaintiff duress or any sort of pressure or fo Dissatisfied with this decision, the pla appealed to the Judge, who dismissed appeal on the ground "that neither Lower Court nor this Court can enter the question of the fact of the execution the instrument which plaintiff, appell now seeks to invalidate." He cites two de sions of this Court in support of his vi He states further on that "these rulin "appear to me to be conclusive. Appell "urges that, as no evidence was recorded "this Court in the case under Section "of the Registration Act, the order pass "under that Section cannot bar the pres

* 12 W. R., p. 503.

uit." The Judge admits that no evidence s recorded by him in that case, but he is of opinion that, from the mere fact of deed having been registered, a Civil urt is precluded from entertaining the which he holds to be "a suit to invali- e the instrument on the ground of non- istration."

am of opinion that the learned Judge is ly in error in his view of the law as as in holding that this present suit is a to invalidate the pottah on the ground on-registration. The plaintiff does not to invalidate the mokurruree pottah on ground of it not having been registered, distinctly on the ground that it is fabri- d, and false because he did not execute The precedents cited by the Judge are not in point. The decision in Sunkur bey's case (12 Weekly Reporter, page) merely decides that the District Judge jurisdiction under Section 84, Act XX. 1866, to summon and examine witnesses, e an inquiry into the fact of execution, order the Registrar to register a deed. e view of the law was upheld on appeal a Bench of three Judges.* But this ruling s not support the Judge at all in hold- that the Civil Court cannot try the of the genuineness of a deed merely ause the instrument has been regis- d. It is difficult to make out what nciple of law the Judge had applied or in view. It is certainly not *res judi-* ; for the Judge merely holds a sum- y inquiry in order to decide whether deed ought to be registered for the pose of registry alone; his decision or er cannot, I imagine, decide the title of parties. The order of the Judge or of Registrar-General simply decides whe- the document should be "put on the ury" and be admissible as evidence in re cases. It has not and cannot have effect of a final and conclusive decision the fact of the execution so as to pre- de all inquiry by a Civil Court. The late f Justice in the decision on appeal quot- above distinctly holds that—"The mere gistration of a document does not affect title of the parties. It is still only a cument which has been registered; and the party wishes to enforce the docu- ent by suit, the mere fact of registration oes not preclude the Civil Court from ying whether the document was exe- "cuted or not." To hold otherwise, *i. e.*, to hold as the Judge has held in this case, that the mere fact of a deed having been registered is sufficient to oust the Civil Court of its jurisdiction, would be to lay down that the order of the Registrar-General or of the Judge ordering registry by the Registrar of a deed is an order conclusive on the fact of its genuineness, and that no Court of Justice can try the question of the authenticity of a deed registered in the Registrar's office. I entirely agree with the view expressed by the late Chief Justice, and I have no hesitation in holding that it was perfectly in the power of the Judge to inquire whether the instrument sought to be invalidated is a document executed by the plaintiff or not. The Subordinate Judge was quite right in fixing an issue as to the genuineness of the deed, and giving his opinion on that issue. The pleader for the respondent was unable to show us any precedent, or point out any provision in any law in support of the view taken by the Judge. He admits he cannot support the decision on this point, but he argued that the plaintiff's suit ought to be dismissed on another ground, namely, for the absence of any cause of action. His contention is that, inasmuch as plaintiff has suffered no injury at all by this pottah having been registered, he has no cause of action, and should not be allowed to obtain a simple declaratory decree. He cites a number of precedents of this Court showing that a party is not entitled to a declaratory decree when no consequential relief is sought by him, or where none could be granted by the Court. I do not, however, dissent from the principle laid down in those rulings of this Court. I hold that, where a party has suffered no injury whatever, where his rights have in no way been invaded upon nor any serious cloud cast on his title, and where no impediment has been thrown in the quiet and full possession of his rights, a plaintiff should not be allowed to rush into Court on some imaginary apprehension of future injury. It is difficult, nay impossible, to lay down a strict line, and declare that such an amount of cloud on a man's title would constitute a valid cause of action, and such would not. Each case must be decided on its peculiar merits, and the Court will have to judge from the particular circumstances of a case whether the plaintiff had or had not a valid cause of action.

In the present case, I am of opinion that there was a good cause of action on which it was necessary that the plaintiff should

* 12 W. R., p. 500.

resort to a Civil Court for a declaration of the nature sought for in this suit. It cannot be denied that a serious cloud was cast on the title of the plaintiff. A deed which he declares he has not executed has been publicly registered in the registry office of the district, purporting to have been executed and registered by him. He has obtained a decree for enhanced rent against this defendant fixing the rent of the tenure at Rupees 66. If he goes to sue for this rent, the mokurruree pottah would be undoubtedly held up to his face as an arrangement subsequently entered into between him and the defendant. The value of his property is diminished from the fact of this deed remaining unchallenged. If he had occasion to deal with this property by mortgage or sale, no one who is aware of this mokurruree pottah would give him that value for the property which he would have paid if this pottah had not existed. I am, therefore, of opinion that, with reference to the particular circumstances of this case, the plaintiff had a valid cause of action, and that, in suing to set aside the pottah, he is removing a serious cloud to his title and a serious impediment in the way of a full enjoyment of his property. I have already held in another case, Special Appeal No. 2218 of 1870, decided by me and Mr. Justice Macpherson on the 20th April 1871,* that in cases where a serious cloud is cast upon the title of a party, he has a right to come to Court for the purpose of removing that cloud which is an impediment to the quiet and full enjoyment of his property.

I would remand this case to the Judge for a trial on the merits.

* *Ante*, p. 421.

The 5th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Admission of documents—Procedure—Certificate—Mis-description.

Case No. 2474 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Mymensing, dated the [illegible] August 1870, reversing a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 18th December 1868.

William Bruce Manson (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Golam Kebria Moonshee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Annada Chunder Ghossal* for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Dass and *Kalee Mohun Das* for Respondent.

When a document is tendered, it is the first duty of a Court to satisfy itself whether the document is admissible at all. If not evidence between the parties, it should be rejected at once.

If an admissible document comes under the [illegible] which requires proof, it should be distinctly noted that it is admitted on the record subject to proof, in case that, if no proof be offered, the opposite party may [illegible] the Court to take it off the record.

In construing a sale-certificate, the Court must not merely look to the words of the certificate, but [illegible] endeavour to ascertain what was intended to be sold; mere mis-description would not defeat the purchaser's rights.

Ainslie, J.—The plaintiff is the purchaser at an execution-sale of the rights and interests of Golam Ambia in a shikmi talook in mouzah Ispingiarpore. The defendant contends that there never was such a talook; that Golam Ambia only held certain *khamar* lands which were resumed by the zemindar, who held them *khas* for [illegible] years, and subsequently in 1274 granted defendant a mokururree lease for them.

The defendant is the brother of Golam Ambia.

Witnesses have been called by the plaintiff, who prove that Golam Ambia held a mokurruree, and this was admitted by the defendant in a written statement put in by him in 1271 in a suit brought against him by the zemindar for rent. In that statement he distinctly admitted that the tenure of Golam Ambia was mokurruree, but added that he gave up occupation in 1268.

The Judge has rejected this written statement on the authority of a case to be found in Weekly Reporter, page 468.

The facts in that case are very different from the facts in this case. In that case, we find that the written statement bore the signature of a lady, who was a *purdah-nusheen*; that it purported to be made jointly by her and her two brothers; that it added greatly to the advantage of the brothers, and was extremely adverse to the interests of the sister, so much so that, if the facts set forth in that statement were true, her interest in the inheritance," as Mr. Justice Mitter puts it, "was cut down to a mere allowance of 4 rupees per month." There was reason on the face of the statement to suspect its genuineness. Now, in this case, the probabilities go the other way. The written statement was put in on behalf of the defendant in this case, who was then defendant in a rent-suit. It raised a good defence to that suit; and if we are to suppose that there was any fraud in the transaction then before the Court, we should rather be inclined to suspect collusion between defendant and his zemindar for the purpose of defeating the auction-purchaser, than between the auction-purchaser and the zemindar to make it appear that the former had purchased a mokurruree jote when Golam Ambia really had none. If there had been false personation by the auction-purchaser independently of the zemindar, the latter would doubtless have exposed it. There really is no reason to doubt that this written statement was put in by the defendant: but, on the contrary, there is every reason to believe that it really was so, and we must assume that all the proceedings in this case were in proper form until some reason to suspect the contrary is shown. The defendant, who pleads that a fraud did take place in that suit, ought to give some proof of it. There is absolutely no proof, and there is no attempt to produce any. It does not appear when this written statement was first questioned. It was questioned in the Lower Appellate Court, but whether it was so in the first Court or not does not appear.

The pleader for the respondent attempted to show from the written statement of defendant that exception is taken to the authority of the person who represented the defendant. But it is quite clear that in the written statement defendant is alluding to other proceedings which took place subsequent to his obtaining his own lease in 1274, and not to the suit in 1271.

It has been frequently remarked that the Courts of first instance are very much in the habit of neglecting their duty in respect of the admission of documentary evidence. The first business of the Court is to satisfy itself whether a document tendered is admissible at all. If it is clearly no evidence between the parties, it should be rejected at once. The documentary evidence which is admissible may be divided into two classes: one class which requires no proof, and another class which requires proof. If a document comes under the latter class, it is very desirable that it should be distinctly noted that it is admitted on the record subject to proof, in order that, if no proof be offered, the opposite party may ask the Court to have it taken off the record. Much trouble might be saved, if, on the tender in evidence of a document requiring proof, the opposite party were called upon to state whether he would admit it. He must be made to understand, of course, that the admission sought is merely for the purpose of bringing the document on to the record without formal proof. If this were done, we should know exactly whether an objection taken, that documentary evidence had been used without being properly proved, ought to be listened to or not.

In the present case, there is nothing to show that the written statement relied on by the plaintiff was objected to in the first Court. There is no reason to doubt its genuineness, and no attempt has been made to show that it is not genuine, and I think that it was properly relied on by the first Court as evidence of the strongest description that there had been a mokurruree jote belonging to Golam Ambia.

Then it is said that, supposing Golam Ambia had a mokurruree jote, it did not pass to the plaintiff under the sale-certificate, and that the plaintiff, who has sued for a shikmee talook, cannot change his ground of action, and ask the Court to award him a

mokurruree jote. The Lower Appellate Court has held that there has been a change in the cause of action in this suit, and has attempted to show that such a change is fatal to the plaintiff's case. But it appears to me that there really has been no change in the cause of action. The plaintiff came into Court with the sale-certificate to establish the rights given to him by that certificate, whatever they are. If the plaintiff succeeds in showing that any part of the property in dispute is covered by the sale-certificate, he is entitled to recover it.

The question in this suit is simply whether, under the sale-certificate purporting to pass a shikmee talook of Golam Ambia, a mokurruree jote held by Golam Ambia could pass to the auction-purchaser. I think that, in looking to the sale-certificate, we must not merely look to the words of it, but we must endeavour to ascertain what was intended to be sold; a mere mis-description would not defeat the purchaser's right. No distinction has been pointed out between the position of a shikmee talookdar such as Golam Ambia would have been if the proper description of the tenure sold was a shikmee talook, and a mokurruree jotedar such as Golam Ambia was according to the admission of the defendant. Apparently Golam Ambia's position in either case and his rights and liabilities would have been identical. Under these circumstances, and looking to the facts that have been established, I have no doubt whatever that what was attached and sold was the tenure of Golam Ambia as existing at that time; and that, whether that tenure be called shikmee talook or mokurruree jote, his rights and interests were the same and passed by the sale.

Objection has also been taken as to the extent of the land claimed in this suit. But there appears to be no doubt that the whole of the land now sued for was really in the occupation of Golam Ambia.

I would, therefore, reverse the decree of the Lower Appellate Court, restore and affirm the decree of the first Court, and declare the plaintiff entitled under his sale-certificate to take possession of the lands in the suit, with all costs.

Jackson, J.—I quite concur with Mr. Justice Ainslie that the suit should be decreed in favor of the plaintiff, and that the Appellate Court's decision should be reversed. We have heard the case argued at some length, and I think there can be doubt whatever, looking to the facts of case, that there has been fraud on the of the defendant, who is the brother Golam Ambia, the judgment-debtor, w rights and interests were sold, and were chased by the plaintiff. I think also can be very little doubt that the zem is acting in collusion with the br Just about the time when the rights a terests were being put up for sale, brother went into Court evidently with intention of defeating the creditors of G Ambia, and said that Golam Ambia had only a mokurruree jote in the village, that he had given it up a very long previously. I think it is most probable even that story is not true; that even he put Golam Ambia's interests far b what they really were. His present st ment is that Golam Ambia did manage some cheat and fraud to get possessio certain land on which he had no right w ever, and that he has since been turned of that. It is evident that, from time time, when he alludes to what the righ Golam Ambia in this jote were, he give different account of them, and the rights crease each time he mentions them. own impression from all this is that Go Ambia had a shikmee talook. How that may be, and whether Golam Ambia a shikmee talook or not, and whether fact has been proved or not in this ca think the plaintiff is entitled, under the *namah* which he has obtained, to take lands which Golam Ambia then posse The zemindar, it is clear, was fully a that these proceedings were being ca on, and he does not attempt to raise contention. He might have appeared defendant. If it is the case that the pl iff's story is true, his interest is being aged. He does not in any way appear contest the claim. After Golam A rights were sold to a third party, the ze dar, along with the present defendant, G Ambia's brother, went to re-measure lands, and gave a fresh lease to the de ant. The zemindar's sheristah must co without doubt, the evidence upon whic was ascertained whether Golam Ambia a shikmee talook or not, and, if not, was the nature of the original tenure. has not attempted to produce the pa which must have been in his possess Whether, therefore, it has been actu proved or not that there was a shik talook, I am quite satisfied that Golam A

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the lands in dispute, and I think the probilities are very much in favor of the fact he had a shikmee talook of them. The ntiff is, therefore, entitled to recover lands, and I concur with Mr. Justice lie in decreeing the plaintiff's suit with osts.

The 5th May 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

peals—Certificate—Section 21, Act XL. of 1858.

Case No. 84 of 1871.

ellaneous Appeal from an order passed the Judge of Hooghly, dated the 20th anuary 1871.

Mohendro Nath Mookerjee (Petitioner), *Appellant,*

versus

ama Soonduree Dabea (Opposite Party), *Respondent.*

Baboo Umbika Churn Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Annund Chunder Ghossal for Respondent.

e order of a Judge under Section 21, Act XL. of , whether it withdraws or not a certificate granted r that law, is appealable under Section 28.

lover, J.—THIS was an application ave a certificate of administration granted under Act XL. of 1858 to one Bama nduree, widow of Jogessur Banerjee, and mother and guardian of his minor dren, withdrawn on the ground of misnagement of the family-estate, waste, lect to provide the minors with proper ns of education, or with proper food d dress.

A preliminary objection was taken to e hearing of the appeal by the pleader for e respondent, on the ground that, as the dge's order did not direct the withdrawal of the certificate, it was not appealable. We think that this objection is altogether untenable. The Judge has tried this case under Section 21 of Act XL. of 1858, which Section gave him the power, if satisfied, that the manager had been improperly fulfilling her trust, to withdraw the certificate; but whether he withdrew it or not, the action which he took was clearly under that Section; and therefore by Section 28, which lays down that all orders passed by the Civil Court or by any Subordinate Court under this Act shall be open to appeal, this order of the Judge is appealable.

On the merits of the appeal, after hearing the argument * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

We dismiss the appeal with costs.

The 5th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Pottah—Evidence of genuineness—Construction—Perpetual holdings—Putneedar and lessee—Liability—Enhancement of rent.

Case No. 2698 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of East Burdwan, dated the 15th September 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 20th June 1870.

Binode Beharee Roy (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mr. C. B. Masseyk (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Gopeenath Mookerjee* for Respondent.

Where a pottah had no attesting witnesses, and was not capable of direct proof, it was held to have been established by the fact of having come from proper cus-

tody, corroborated by the exact identity of the grantor's signature with his admitted signature on other documents.

A pottah which gave land for building purposes, and recited that no abatement of rent was to be granted at any time or for any cause, and that no increase of jumma should ever be demanded, was held distinctly to provide that the land was granted at the rate then fixed for ever, even though no such words were used as "Istemraree," "Ba-furzundan," &c., &c.

Where such a pottah had been granted by a putneedar whose putnee had been created while the mehal was under temporary settlement, and who had to pay a higher rent to the zemindar when the latter obtained a permanent settlement from Government at a higher jumma, it was held that the fact of the putneedar having to pay a higher rent to the superior holder did not, under the circumstances, warrant his raising his lessee's rent.

Where a putneedar sued for enhancement of rent on the foregoing ground, he was held not to be entitled to a decree for enhancement of excess land in defendant's possession, or to treat him as a trespasser in respect of such excess.

Glover, J.—THIS was a suit to recover rent at enhanced rates on a holding consisting of 18 beegahs 16 cottahs 7 chittacks in the possession of the defendant.

The plaintiff is the putneedar of the Rajah of Burdwan. When the putnee was created, the mehal was held by the Rajah on a temporary settlement from Government, and it was agreed between the parties that, if, on the Rajah's getting a permanent settlement, a higher rent was fixed for the mehal, the putneedar should pay the Rajah a sum proportionate to the excess. It is not denied that the Rajah's rent was increased by Government, and that the putneedar had to pay in his turn.

Whilst the estate was still under temporary settlement, the plaintiff, or rather the person through whom he claims, gave a pottah to a Mr. Atkinson, the vendor of the defendant, for 18 beegahs 16 cottahs 7 chittacks of land at an annual rent of Rupees 24.

He now claims Rupees 114 for some land, on the ground that, as he has been made to pay enhanced rent to his superior holder, the Rajah of Burdwan, he is equitably entitled to recover from his tenant, and that the rate he demands is what the last settlement fixed on the lands in defendant's possession.

The defence is that the pottah given by the plaintiff's predecessor to Atkinson bars enhancement, and that the defendant, on the faith of the pottah, built valuable and expensive works on the land for the manufacture of indigo.

On the first trial, the Deputy Collec decreed for the plaintiff. The Judge, ever, on appeal, remanded the case for production of the original pottah from Burdwan Rajah's serishta. The po was produced accordingly, and both Co have held that it bars the plaintiff from hancing the rent paid by the defendant.

It appears to us very doubtful wh this suit ought to have been entertain all in the Revenue Court, inasmuch as land on which enhancement is sought pears to have been given for building not for agricultural purposes. 18 bee odd would not, after the necessary space factory, vats, drying rooms, offices, &c., provided, leave anything for agricult purposes, even if the proprietor desired to use them. As, however, the ques was not raised in the Courts below, we not think that it should stop the hearing the appeal.

The first objection taken by Baboo mesh Chunder Mitter for the special pellant is that the Judge was wrong law in relying on the pottah without e dence, inasmuch as it was not of an age prove itself, and was not proved to h come from proper custody.

The first portion only of this objection taken in the petition of special app namely, that the pottah ought to have b proved by evidence, and that it is not proved.

With reference to this, the Judge found that the document has been in Rajah's serishta for the last 16 years, that it got there by being filed by the fendant's vendor, Atkinson, as security the payment of rent due on other la The mohurrir who filed it is shown in judgment of the first Court to be dead, it is not denied that Atkinson has left country. The pottah itself has no att witnesses, and it is difficult to see how defendant, who is a stranger, purcha could give direct proof of the execution the document.

What he does prove is that the po was filed in the Rajah's serishta for purpose above noted, and that it was p duced from thence by the Rajah hims It is contended that the mohurrir wit has only been employed in the serishta 10 years, and cannot, therefore, depose to fact which is said to have occurred 16 ye

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We think, however, that, on the whole ence and circumstances of the case, the rts below were fully justified in holding the pottah was not capable of direct but that, as it came from proper cus- and was corroborated by the exact y of the grantor's signature with his ted signature on other documents, and might, therefore, be taken as establish- We may remark, moreover, that no ion in this form was taken in the below.

en as to whether the terms of the h bar enhancement, which forms the d objection taken in special appeal.

e have read the document: it gives cer- land for building purposes, enumerating various descriptions of buildings to be ted, and recites that no abatement of is to be granted at any time or for any e, and that no increase of jumma shall be demanded. The wording of the h does, we think, distinctly provide the jumma then fixed was to remain same for ever. We have been reminded the decisions passed on the subject of petual holdings, and it is contended that, here are no such words as "istemraree" ba furzundân," &c., &c., there is no of that the grant was made in perpetuity or any longer term than the life of the tee. It might be sufficient to observe this was never the plaintiff's case in the rts below, nor does he take the objection is petition of special appeal; but we are ared to say that the only fair and rea- ble meaning of the words used in the h is that the land was granted at the then fixed for ever. In any case, how- , the plaintiff would fail, for there is no nor even allegation that the original tee is dead.

e have been much pressed with the table consideration of this case, and it been argued that, as the lease was grant- at a time when the estate was under a porary settlement and liable to pay ex- rent, which rent it did subsequently e to pay, the lessee is bound to contri- his share and reimburse his lessor the ount which he has been obliged to pay his zemindar, the Rajah of Burdwan.

It does not appear to us that such consi- ations should be allowed any weight in present case. The plaintiff has had to the Rajah because he specially covenanted to do so in the event of the Government demand being increased, but in the contract between the plaintiff and defendant (we use the words to avoid long repetitions —the proper term would, of course, be plaintiff and defendant's representatives) there was no such stipulation. On the contrary, there was an express proviso that no more rent should be demanded at any time or for any reason. It is only reasonable to suppose that, as this contract was entered into at a time when the plaintiff was under an agreement of a precisely opposite character with the Rajah, there was a reason for the difference; and this may, we think, be found in the fact that the land was taken for an indigo-factory, and that very great expense would be incurred in erecting the necessary buildings, and that the land would be unproductive.

The last objection taken in special appeal is that, under any circumstances, the plaintiff is entitled to recover rent on the excess of 8 cottahs found in the defendant's possession.

We are of opinion that he is not so entitled; at least, not in this suit. We are not prepared to acquiesce in the special respondent's contention that, for the excess land, the plaintiff is only entitled to treat the defendant as a trespasser (Roshun Bibee *versus* Bishonath Sircar, 6 Weekly Reporter 57), for if that were so, any person holding excess land without his landlord's knowledge for a period of 12 years would have held it adversely to his landlord, and be entitled to plead limitation against him.

But as the plaintiff in this case sued for a lump sum of enhanced rent in the entire holding, he cannot get rent which, never having been paid before, could not be termed "enhanced" on the small excess of land in the defendant's possession. It may be a question whether the plaintiff could recover rent even on this excess, even were he to bring his suit in a proper form for the purpose; but he cannot get it in this suit.

We think, therefore, that the decision of the Court below should stand, and that the special appeal should be dismissed with costs.

The 8th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice.*

Court Fees Act—Stamps—Probate.

Reference to the Chief Justice under Section 5 of the Court Fees Act, 1870, by Mr. R. Betchambers, Taxing Officer of the High Court.

In the goods of Bibee Ameerun, *deceased.*

No stamp-duty is payable under the Court Fees Act, 1870, on probate granted to a second executor, to whom leave was reserved to take out probate when the first probate was granted.

Reference by the Taxing Officer.—On the 2nd of September last, probate of the will of the deceased above-named was granted by this Court to one of the two executors, with reservation to the other.

The other executor has now also obtained probate.

The stamp-fee payable under the Court Fees Act 1870, Schedule 1, Clause 11, was paid when the first probate was granted. Is it payable in respect of the second probate?

In the case of W. P. Masson, deceased, in which the first letters of administration (with will annexed) were cancelled, and fresh letters (with will annexed, together with a document which formed part of the will, but which had not been annexed to the first letters) were granted, it was determined that the stamp-fee was not payable a second time.

In that case the second letters were granted to the same party in substitution of the first letters. In the present case a double probate has been granted, *i. e.*, a probate to each of the two executors.

Decision of the Chief Justice.

The first probate enures for the benefit of all the executors. I think that no stamp-duty is payable on the double probate which recites, and, in fact, proceeds upon the first.

The 8th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. L. *Judge.*

Right of Way.

Case No. 66 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the October 1870, affirming a decision of Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated 31st April 1780.

Syud Hamid Hossein and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Mr. C. Gervain (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Oomesh Chunder Banerjee for Appellants.

Mr. W. W. Linton for Respondent.

If a person has a right of way from one place another over a particular line, he cannot be compelled to use a different and substituted way. But where right is simply to pass from one point to another, party desiring to exercise the right cannot claim pass in a particular tortuous and indirect course tween the two points.

Norman, C. J.—The plaintiff has right of way from the public road on north to a road on the south over certain lands of the defendant which adjoin own. The road runs north and south, as it is shown in a survey-map of 1851, which is in evidence, as being a straight road.

In a suit in 1854, the plaintiff claimed this road as a straight road from north south, and obtained a decree according However, in consequence of some ambiguity in the terms of the decree, when decree in a subsequent suit came to be executed at some time in 1864, the road set out as running from the road on north by a burial-ground and along plaintiff's garden towards the public on the south, with a slight deviation, about 3 cubits, to the west round a certain belonging to one Panchoo Dutt.

n execution of that decree, it appears t certain pilpas or low pillars were fixed the earth which would show that the tiff had a right to deviate from the ht line slightly to the west from a about 15 cubits from the public road e south.

e defendant says that even that di- nce is a trespass: no doubt the tiff had no right to plant pilpas on efendant's land, over which he had re right of passage. The plaintiff is present suit claims a right of over a piece of ground 172½ cubits ngth and from 5 to 2½ cubits in breadth ing an area of two cottahs. The line oad now claimed deviates at a right e for about 15 cubits towards the west ar as the south-east angle of a hut nging to one Heerun Beebee, and from ce turns at a right angle, and proceeds about 15 cubits south till it meets public road passing round and cutting n irregularly-shaped piece of land be- ing to the defendant, which would pro- y be rendered wholly useless to the ndant.

he Moonsiff dismissed the plaintiff's suit. Judge, in affirming the Moonsiff's deci- which was passed after a very full and ul inquiry, makes certain observations h have been commented on by the llants' vakeel.

e says: "There is nothing to show what point the lane is to turn to the st. In the next place there is no evi- nce to show that it ever did take the ged turnings; and in the third place, it ever did take those turnings, the endant is obviously entitled to divert and carry it on in a direct line to the d on the south, if in so doing he does t encroach on the land of his neigh- ur."

here is no reliable evidence that the formerly diverged to the west at the t indicated in the plaint. The evidence show that the road is a straight road, possibly some slight deflection of some bits or so, where it passes round what was formerly Panchoo Dutt's pit.

s to the third point adverted to by the ge, we think it is clear that, if any per- has a right of way from one place to ther over a particular line, if he and ancestors have been accustom[illegible]d to use that way from a long time past, he has a right to go over it, and cannot be compelled to use a *different* and *substituted* way. The plaintiff has a clear right to pass over the defendant's land from a certain point on the road to the north to a place on the road to the south; in other words, he has a right of way between these two points. But it is another thing to say that, when a man has been accustomed to pass over a certain pathway, the owner of the land through which the path runs cannot interfere at all with the path by turning it a little to the right or a little to the left so as to alter its direction slightly.

In an English case on the subject, Staple *vs.* Heydon, 6 Modern Reports, page 3, it was resolved that "a man cannot claim a "right of way over my ground from one "part to another, but from one part of his "own ground to another, he may claim a "right of way over my ground."

In Rouse *versus* Bardin, 2 Henry Blackstone 355, Mr. Justice Gould pointed out that, in justifying an alleged trespass in exercise of a right of way, it is sufficient to state the places from which and to which the road leads. He says it would be productive of infinite uncertainty to require an exact description of the line of the way; to say it went so many yards to the north, then turned to the west, and then to the east. He says I have always understood that the "intermediate spaces are disregarded."

In James *vs.* Dods, 2 Crompton and Meeson's Reports 272, Lord Lyndhurst, in discussing the right of a person to use roads for the purpose of carrying away tithes, says: "It is not pretended that the former might not make a slight deviation."

In a case like the present, we think that the right is not a right to pass in a particular indirect line over the plaintiff's land, going for so many yards west or so many yards to the east, or so many yards to the south of a particular straight line. The right is simply to pass from a point A on the north to point B on the south; and if the right is established, the pathway between these two points must be kept open; but the party desiring to exercise his right cannot claim to pass in a particular tortuous and indirect course between the two points.

The present suit is simply vexatious. We can see no other reason why it was ever

instituted. The appeal is of the same character. The Moonsiff's decision is quite correct. The Judge's decision is also substantially right, and we dismiss the appeal with costs, allowing 2 gold mohurs as pleaders' fees.

The 8th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Hindoo Law—Grandson—Maintenance.

Case No. 2442 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 23rd August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Diamond Harbour, dated the 29th December 1869.

Mon Mohinee Dossee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Baluck Chunder Pundit (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Sham Lall Mitter for Appellant.

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Respondent.

Under the Hindoo Law, a grandson is not entitled to maintenance.

Bayley, J.—In this case, plaintiff, the wife of a son of the defendant, sued the defendant for maintenance of herself and her infant son, aged about 3 or 4 years.

The first Court allowed the maintenance.

The Lower Appellate Court has disallowed it.

The facts found by the Lower Appellate Court are that the plaintiff, with her son, twice left her father-in-law's house; that she sold her daughter in marriage to a low-caste Brahmin, and did not return to the house of the defendant, her father-in-law.

It has been held by a Full Bench of this Court* that a father-in-law is not *legally* bound to maintain his son's widow. The only question that then remains is wh in this case the widow's son, that is grandson, is entitled to maintenance.

A case has been cited from the M High Court Reports, Volume II., pa as in support of this contention, bu decision merely rules that "in a governed by the Marumakkatayam Anandravan's right to maintenance is a right to be maintained in the house."

The above law is quoted as a law prevalent in Malabar. We are sho authority against the view taken Lower Appellate Court, and we th dismiss this special appeal with costs.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 9th May 1871

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C *Judges.*

Collector's jurisdiction—Sub-divisional —Section 20, Act VI. of 1862.

Case No. 1774 of 1872.

Special Appeal from a decision pa the Additional Judge of Nudde the 18th June 1870, reversing a of the Moonsiff of Santipore. d 30th January 1869.

Rakhal Chunder Roy and others (Pla *Appellants.*

versus

Guggun Chunder Dutt and other (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt fo Appellants.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Ash Dhu* [illegible] ents

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* 10 W. R., F. B., p. 89.

he Collector's jurisdiction obtains where no Sub-divi-al Officer exists, the terms of Section 20, Act VI. of 1862 being inapplicable where there are no presiding ers.

Bayley, J.—THE two grounds of spe-appeal urged in this case are *firstly*, that was no jurisdiction in the Collector to e original suit which resulted in a de-which eventually led to the sale of the e, for possession of which the present s brought; and *secondly*, that the right e plaintiffs as co-sharers has not been considered, as they were not made de-nts in the decree in execution of which enure was sold, and therefore they are ound by the sale.

the *first* point, *viz.*, the question of iction, we remark that the Collector risdiction in the case, as there was no divisional Officer at Santipore at the The Judge below has found as a fact here was no such officer, and there is g shown to us to contradict this on the of the record. There can be no doubt er that, where no Sub-divisional Officer the Collector's jurisdiction ranges at portion of the district. The terms tion 20, Act VI. of 1862, that suits be instituted in their respective divi-only, apply to places where there are to preside over those divisions, and apply to places where there are no officers. The law does not contemplate ibilities. The Judge below was re right in holding that the Collector risdiction under such circumstances, erwise it would follow that, where a y Collector in charge of a Sub-division ent, if the Collector be not able to jurisdiction, in such a case no suits be instituted or tried.

the *second* plea, we observe that nure was sold in execution of a decree against the holder for its own arrears. been repeatedly held that a zemin-elling a tenure for its own arrears , is bound to look only to the tenants ered in his serishta. That the plaint-re so registered is not proved in this and therefore the objection taken is able. Again, a tenure, irrespective question of registration, is liable to d for its own arrears, and this is a here arrears were due from the tenure Both the grounds of the appeal, re, fail, and this appeal must be dis-d with costs.

The 9th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Moveable property—Thatch of a house — Small Cause Courts—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2302 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Nuddea, dated the 29th July 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Bongong, dated the 21st December 1869.

Raj Coomar Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Pran Nath Mookerjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter for Appellant.
No one for Respondent.

The thatch of house is moveable property, and a suit to recover its price, if not exceeding Rs. 500, must be brought in a Small Cause Court.

Paul, J.—IN this case the Subordinate Judge has, it seems to us, rightly held that the suit was cognizable by the Small Cause Court, and he has, therefore, dismissed the plaintiff's suit on the ground that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction.

The suit was brought to recover the price of a thatched ijmalee (joint) house laid at Rupees 5. Now, the thatch of a house is moveable property, more especially when such thatch as in the present case was severed from the house. A suit, therefore, brought to recover the price of such thatch not exceeding Rupees 500 must be brought in the Small Cause Court. The decision of the Subordinate Judge is, therefore, quite right, and this appeal must be dismissed.

The pleader for the appellant, however, informs us that he originally brought his suit in the Small Cause Court, but that the Judge of the Small Cause Court declined to entertain the suit on the ground that he could not adjudicate upon a question of title to the land and referred him to the Civil Court. Now, it has been held by the late Chief Justice that matters incidental to the determination of a suit of this description, although involving a question of title to land, may be brought and tried in the Small Cause Court to enable it to adjudicate such

subject-matters as may be within its jurisdiction. The plaintiff in the present case seems to be unfortunate in being thrown out in both the Courts. It is quite clear that his suit was originally rightly brought in the Small Cause Court, and we hope that, after this expression of our opinion, the Judge of the Small Cause Court will put matters right by allowing the plaintiff to bring a fresh suit in his Court. In determining that suit, the Small Cause Court Judge will be entitled to adjudicate upon a question of title incidental thereto; and as to the question whether limitation will bar such suit or not, we think that the course which the plaintiff has taken owing to the original order of the Small Cause Court Judge will probably give him a good and sufficient cause to claim exemption.

The 9th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Cause of Action—Foreign judgments—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2344 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 27th July 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 20th December 1869.

Sreehuree Bukshee and others (some of the Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Gopal Chunder Samunt and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellants.

Baboos Sreenath Dass and *Kishen Succa Mookerjee* for Respondents.

If the cause of action is the taking of money, it arises at the place where the money is taken.

The *rule* in the case of foreign judgments sought to be executed in our Courts is that such judgments must finally determine the points in dispute, and must be adjudications upon the actual merits, and that they are open to impeachment on the ground of want of jurisdiction, whether over the cause, the subject-matter, or the parties, or that the defendants was not summoned, or had no opportunity of defence, or that the judgment was fraudulently obtained.

Bayley, J.—I AM of opinion that in t special appeal the judgment of the Lo Appellate Court should be reversed costs.

The grounds urged in special appeal two: *firstly*, that the French Court, decree is sought to be executed had no risdiction; and *secondly*, that the sp appellant had no notice to appear and d the case.

Now, the question of jurisdiction is determined with reference to the term Section 5, Act VIII. of 1859. That tion says: "The Civil Courts of each "shall receive, try, and determine all "hereby declared to be cognizable by t "Courts, if the cause of action shall "arisen, or the defendant, at the time of "commencement of the suit shall dwe "personally work for gain, within such "mits."

Now, the cause of action in this is the taking of certain money in a tain place. The money is admitted to been taken at Calcutta. The witnesses ed for the plaintiff contradict his own by stating that the money was taken Chandernagore; and after hearing and sidering the testimony of these witnesses seems to us quite unreliable. Thus, money having admittedly been taken at cutta, the cause of action arises in Calc But further there is actually no trustw evidence on the record that the defen either dwelt or personally worked for in Chandernagore at the time of the tution of the suit. I think, therefore, on all these grounds the plaintiffs' suit fail.

I would add that, in the case of a eign judgment sought to be executed our Courts, the rule as to the necessi service of notice, &c., upon the op party has been laid down by Mr. J Story on the Conflict of Laws, and by Mr. William Macpherson at page 1 the last edition of his Civil Procedure almost the same words: "Foreign j "ments must, in order to be received, "determine the points in dispute, and "be adjudications upon the actual me "and they are open to be impeached "ground that the foreign Court had no j "diction, whether over the cause, over "subject-matter, or over the parties, or "the defendant never was summoned to "swer, or had no opportunity of making

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defence, or that the judgment was fraudulently obtained." I do not say that the judgment in this case was fraudulently obtained, because there is no legal proof of fraud; but it is clear that the parties were not subject to the jurisdiction of the Chandernagore Court, because the subject-matter of suit and cause of action really were in Calcutta.

Besides as to the summonses, there is nothing to show that summonses were actually served on the defendants, or that they had their opportunity of making their defence. We think that the judgments of both the Courts are erroneous in law. The Subordinate Judge in the first Court says that, because the question of jurisdiction was not taken at the Chandernagore Court, therefore he could not entertain that objection—an objection which, if true, would go to the very existence of the power to try the case, and therefore ought to be allowed to be raised at any time. The Judge, on appeal, appears to have erred doubly, *first*, because he adopts the above reasoning of the first Court, and *secondly*, because he says that the final inquiry had proved that the money had been *spent* in joint *kurbar*, business-transactions, at Chandernagore. Now, the question as to how or where the money was spent has nothing whatever to do with the determination of the question of jurisdiction. It may have been spent at Chandernagore, Calcutta, or at any place in the world. It may have been spent in joint business or thrown into the river. The real question here is as to where the money was taken, and it is shown to have been taken at Calcutta.

As to the question of service of summons, we are told that we should presume all acts have been rightly done; but on the contrary, we find positive evidence that they were not rightly done.

Lastly, we are pressed to remand the case in order that further evidence may be taken; but in the first place, we are unwilling to remand a case of this complexion with evidence so false and tutored; and secondly, because every party has a right of asking any Court of Justice to fix the proper issues. To stand by, allow a wrong issue to be raised, and then to take exception to that issue, is a prevalent practice which this Court will not encourage.

In this view, we reverse the judgments of the Lower Courts, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit with costs.

Paul, J.—I am also of opinion that the plaintiff's suit should be dismissed with costs.

The 9th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Hoondees—Custom.

Case No. 2554 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Moorshedabad, dated the 23rd September 1870, affirming a decision of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 31st May 1870.

Indur Chunder Doogur (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Luchmee Bibee and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Debender Chunder Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboo Kalee Mohun Doss for Respondents.

Plaintiff obtained a hoondee from defendant drawn upon his firm at *C.* On a representation that that hoondee was lost, defendant granted plaintiff a second hoondee on the same firm. When this duplicate was presented to the firm, the original had already been accepted on its presentation by defendant No. 2; and the duplicate was declined in accordance with its own terms. On due date the original hoondee was paid by the acceptors. Plaintiff then sued either for the non-acceptance of the duplicate hoondee or to recover money had and received on the ground that the original consideration had failed.

HELD that the non-acceptance of the duplicate hoondee could not give plaintiff any cause of action, and that the consideration had not failed.

Per Paul, J.—That no custom could override the terms of the contract as set forth in the second hoondee, nor could such custom, being irrational, absurd, and contrary to equity and good conscience, be sustained in a Court of justice.

Paul, J.—IN this case, the facts are very few and very simple. It appears that the plaintiff, on the 6th day of the dark side of the moon in Jyst 1926 Sumbut, obtained a hoondee for Rupees 1,000 from the defendant's firm at Baloochur drawn upon his firm at Calcutta.

The plaintiff alleged that that hoondee was lost, and on representation of that fact

to the defendant he granted plaintiff a second hoondee drawn by his said firm at Baloochur upon his said firm at Calcutta; and in the body of this duplicate it was stated that, if the original be found accepted, the duplicate shall become null and void. It appears on the evidence that, when the duplicate hoondee was presented to the defendant's firm at Calcutta, the original had already been accepted, and the result was that the Calcutta firm declined to accept the duplicate, stating at the top of it that they had already accepted the original hoondee presented by one Huranund Roy Doulut Ram, the defendant No. 2 in the case. In doing this, they allege that they followed the terms of the duplicate hoondee. Thus, the plaintiff brings this action in one of two ways either for the non-acceptance of the duplicate hoondee, or to recover money had and received on the ground that the original consideration failed.

It is quite clear that the non-acceptance of the second hoondee was in accordance with the strict terms of that hoondee, and the circumstance of refusal cannot give the plaintiff any cause of action.

As to the plaintiff seeking to recover the amount of the original hoondee on the ground that the consideration failed, it appears to me that the plaintiff must lose her suit also. I think the consideration had not failed, for it is admitted by the plaintiff herself that the original hoondee had been accepted by the defendant's firm at Calcutta before the duplicate was presented, and that, on due date of the original hoondee, the amount thereof was paid by the acceptors. Under these circumstances, it cannot be said that the consideration failed.

But an element of confusion has been imported into the case by the evidence of some witnesses as to custom. That alleged custom cannot possibly override the plain terms of the contract, as is evident from the clear language of the second hoondee; but besides that, the evidence in this case seems only to go to the extent of showing that, in the event of both the original and the duplicate being presented for payment by persons of equal respectability, some further proceedings should be taken by the production of a triplicate, and the payment stopped until the dispute is settled. That custom, therefore, does not affect the present case before us. If the custom, however, does not amount to that, but amounts to what the plaintiff contends for, *viz.*, that notwithstanding the payment of the original hoondee the duplicate must also be paid for on presentation, all that I can say is that such custom is irrational, absurd, and contrary to the principles of equity and good sense, and cannot be sustained as a custom in a Court of justice. If the plaintiff had only been guided by the ordinary principles of honesty and justice, she would have refrained from bringing the suit in this case. The suit, in fact, seems to be a sort of oppression attempted to be committed on the defendant, for nothing but a pure act of grace and courtesy could have rendered it obligatory on the defendant to grant the duplicate hoondee to the plaintiff on the bare allegation of the loss of the original. The defendant was not bound to grant her the duplicate until she first guaranteed him against any future demand. The result is that the honesty of the motive by which the defendant was actuated has been very ill-recompensed by the proceedings which the plaintiff has taken against him in the present suit. I think that the suit against defendant No. 1 must fail for all these reasons, and that the suit against defendant No. 2 must equally fail, for there is no evidence that the original hoondee was really lost, and had not passed into the hands of this defendant *bonâ fide* by sale, or purchase.

The result is that this appeal must be allowed, and the plaintiff's suit dismissed with all costs.

Bayley, J.—I think it is not necessary in this case to go into the question of custom for the duplicate hoondee and the endorsement upon it show, the one a distinct condition that no acceptance of the duplicate should be made if the original were only accepted, and the other that the original hoondee *had* been accepted. The payment of the duplicate, therefore, by the terms of that document, is not due on the duplicate. The first hoondee once accepted was an acceptance of all liability to the total amount of the bill, *viz.*, Rupees 1,000, and this suit by the plaintiff is only an attempt to make the defendant twice liable for one and the same amount. The duplicate was given by the defendant on the mere representation of the loss of the original as an act of grace.

I agree in reversing the judgments of the Lower Courts with costs.

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The 10th May 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Ex-parte decision—Prima-facie case—Procedure.

Case No. 14 of 1871.

ular Appeal from a decision passed by Subordinate Judge of Purneah, dat- the 21st September 1870.

mrit Nath Jha (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

y Dhunput Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee and *Taruck Nath Sein* for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Bhugobutiy Churn Ghose* for Respondent.

dealing with a suit *ex parte*, a Court is bound to that the plaintiff's case is at least *primâ facie* prov- the mere absence of the defendant does not of justify the presumption that the plaintiff's case is .

here a case was decided *ex parte*, notwithstanding ated applications of the defendant's pleader for fur- and reasonable time to produce witnesses who, on nt of their place of abode being in distant and nt districts, could not be produced within the ed time allowed, the High Court remanded the case re-trial.

ayley, J.—On this appeal coming on hearing, Baboo Sreenath Doss for the ondent took a preliminary objection that appeal lies against the decision of the er Court, as it was an *ex-parte* decision er the provisions of Section 119, Act I. of 1859. Baboo Sreenath Doss quotes ase from page 206 of the Bombay h Court Reports, Appellate Civil Juris- ion, in support of his contention.

I take up the preliminary objection first it stands. The Bombay case is not at a case similar to the one before us. It there ruled that "the hearing of a suit which a pleader was duly appointed on ehalf of the defendant, but not instructed answer, or instructed not to answer at all, was an '*ex-parte* hearing,' and that no ppeal lay from a judgment passed in such suit."

No other authority has been advanced. Now, we would have paid the highest respect to the authority cited were it at all in point; but as it stands, it is entirely different from the case now before us.

The facts of this case appear to be these :—

There was a petition given by Mr. DeSouza, the pleader for the defendant, on the 9th September 1870. The order on the petition was: "Let the defendant's pleader take notice that, if he intends to have any witnesses called up, he must pray for the same by filing a petition in Court to-day; otherwise he must appear on the date fixed, along with his witnesses."

On the 13th September, Mr. DeSouza put in an issumnuvisee of witnesses on behalf of the defendant. The Lower Court held that, as the order of the 9th September was that the defendant should file his issumnuvisee, names of witnesses, on that very day, he should have done so; but that, as then there was no time to serve the summonses, the defendant should himself try to bring the witnesses in Court on the day fixed for the hearing of the case, *viz.*, the 21st.

On the 21st September, Mr. DeSouza again presented a petition to the effect that, as the witnesses from the other district (Dinagepore) whom the defendant was directed to produce in Court on that day had not yet appeared, summonses might be issued in their names, and that, as the witnesses in Purneah had also failed to appear although summonses had been issued in their names, a *dustuk* might issue against them.

Upon this petition the Court says that it was clear that the defendant's intention was to gain time; and as the Court could not postpone the case again, having once before granted a postponement without reason, the petition must be rejected. The petition was accordingly rejected, and the case was heard and disposed of on that very day, *viz.*, the 21st September. So that it is clear that this suit involving a claim of no less than Rupees 1,08,445 was instituted on the 9th August, and disposed of on the 21st September, notwithstanding all those petitions on the part of the pleader of defendant to allow him a further and *reasonable* period to produce his witnesses. This fact in itself indicates an improper haste with which the case has been disposed of, without a due regard to the interests of justice.

Reverting to the preliminary objection raised by the pleader for the respondent, I have to remark that this case is altogether different from the Bombay case cited. Here the pleader was not one who was "not instructed to answer, or was instructed not to answer," or who stood by and let the judgment go against him, but who, according to the Subordinate Judge himself and to record, was present in Court, and from time to time trying by reasonable requests, and under the above circumstances without any injury to justice to the parties, to obtain further time for his client in order to produce witnesses who, on account of the distance of their place of abode in different districts, Purneah and Dinagepore, and the difficulty of enforcing their attendance in Court, could not be produced within the very limited time given. Irrespective, however, of this consideration, every Judge, in dealing with an *ex-parte* case, should take good care to see that the plaintiff's case is at least *primâ facie* proved. Now, what have we in this case before us? The allegation of the plaintiff in the plaint was that, under the conditions of the bond, if the mortgaged property were likely to be sold, or if four successive instalments remained unpaid, the plaintiff would be entitled to sue without waiting for the expiration of the remaining dates fixed for the instalments, and that, accordingly, as there had been default in the payment of four successive instalments, the property was likely to be brought to sale, the defendant having allowed the rent for two years to remain unpaid. Besides that there was a stipulation for the payment of interest on certain dates specified in the schedule which had not been paid.

Instead, however, of inquiring into any of the above points, the whole judgment of the Lower Court seems to be directed to the determination of one point only, *viz.*, the factum of the execution of the bond. No determination as to the non-payment of the putnee rents or to the breach in the payment of instalments has been come to or attempted. Indeed, the whole judgment on the merits of the case is contained in these few words: "The genuineness of the bond im-"pleaded is proved by the evidence on the "record, the conclusion drawn from which "of the justness of the demand is further "justified by the presumption arising "from the default of the defendant (though "present by pleader) to enter a defence." So that, out of the very judgment from which Baboo Sreenath Doss takes his p liminary objection owing to the case be decided *ex parte*, that is, in the defenda absence, we find that the defendant was p sent and through his pleader, who asked postponement oftentimes by petitions.

It is needless to observe that the facts fo by the Lower Court in the passage qu are quite insufficient to justify a decree the plaintiff's favor. It might well be the bond had been really executed, and the putnee rent or the several instalm might not have remained unpaid so as give the plaintiff a cause of action. sides, the presumption drawn by the Sub dinate Judge as to the justness of the pla iff's claim from the default of the defen in entering a defence is as illogical as wrong in law. Some illness, accident, of a friend to look into his affairs, an variety of other circumstances might b combined to prevent the defendant from ing present in Court, so that it cannot laid down as a safe or a sound rule that mere absence of the defendant of itself j tifies the presumption that the plaintif case is true. The real fact in the c seems to be that, simply with a view to g the case disposed of before the holidays, a September being the last day before t vacation, this unseemly haste has been ma in the decision of the case, and the unavo able result has been a total denial of justic

Under all the above circumstances, think that the case must go back to Lower Court to be re-tried with reference the above remarks, each party being wil that it should be taken up and disposed out of its turn.

The Deputy Registrar will certify bef Friday evening that the records of this c have been despatched to the Post Office, the 1st July next is hereby fixed as the d for the decision of this case by the Lo Court, after which period no further ti should be allowed to either party.

Paul, J.—I am entirely of the same o nion. I consider the request made by defendant for a postponement of the hear of the case was perfectly reasonable well-grounded, and the Subordinate Ju has acted most indiscreetly and unreasona in refusing it.

I quite concur with Mr. Justice Ba in thinking that the whole proceeding this case is marked by a degree of pre tation which the circumstances hardly ju

at all render necessary, and that, therefore, on that ground, the case must be sent back for re-trial.

I were to yield to the objection taken Baboo Sreenath Doss that this is an *ex-parte* proceeding, and no appeal lies, then I must say that, inasmuch as this decision of Subordinate Judge has been some way other brought to our notice, and we have it, and we think that it is a most hasty, complete, and erroneous judgment, we that, by virtue of the large powers which have, to interfere for the ends of justice. fact, when a challenge was thrown out the Court to Baboo Sreenath Doss if could maintain the judgment of the Lower Court upon the facts found, he most candidly and honorably admitted that he could . Such being the case, I think that the must be sent back for a fresh trial. The costs will follow the result.

The 10th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Tacit consent—User—Rights of public.

Case No. 2527 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 30th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 31st March 1870.

Sufroo Shaikh Durjee and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Futteh Shaikh Durjee and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Khetter Mohun Mookerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Grish Chunder Mookerjee for Respondents.

A thatched house, which had been used by the proprietor of the land whereon it stood, as a house of prayer for himself, family, neighbours, and the public, having been blown down, a brick-built one was erected in its stead by public subscription, and maintained for the same purpose. After the proprietor's demise, his heirs claimed the right and title to the house.

HELD that the consent of the proprietor, added to the long use of the house by the public, entitled the public, by way of implied grant, to the occupation of the same as a house for prayer, and the plaintiffs could not succeed.

Bayley, J.—IN this case, it is quite clear that the special appeal is entirely groundless. A special appellant should look to the facts found by the Lower Appellate Court, and then, if the facts found justify an appeal on account of any error in law or defect in the investigation affecting the decision on the merits, in that case, and to that extent only, can a special appeal be properly preferred. And I think the facts found in this case by the Lower Appellate Court do not at all justify the grounds taken in appeal.

The Judge has found that the house in dispute was erected by, and stood on the land of, one Kadir, who used it as a house of prayer for himself, family, and neighbours, and those who liked to resort to it; that no objection whatever was ever taken to such use of the house; that the house had been blown down; and that, Kadir having no means to rebuild and restore the house, the parties, by a public subscription, did then build the house, and maintained it for the purpose for which it was originally used.

The present suit is brought by plaintiff to establish a title to and to recover possession, and to eject the defendants from the new *puckha* house built.

The Judge below is of opinion that the original proprietor, by his tacit consent to the resort of the public to the house and to the land on which it stood for the purpose of prayer, has resigned to them any right or title that he himself may have had in the land and in the house. I may observe that both the parties in this suit derive their title from Kadir as the original holder. The Judge says that Kadir, "from "the time he allowed the public to build "and to repair and maintain the edifice, and "use it for a public purpose, without re-"quiring them to pay any rent or without "raising any objection, resigned to the "public any right or title that he himself "had in the land and house." The Judge then finds that this right and title to the house is disputed by Kadir's heirs, but that they have failed to prove any title. The Judge, therefore, thinks that the consent of the proprietor added to the long use of the house by the public entitles

them, by way of an implied grant, to the occupation of the same as a house for prayer.

I think that there are grounds to justify this finding. But 10 grounds of special appeal have been taken to this judgment of the Lower Appellate Court; and yet the point that has been argued before us is not involved in any of those 10 grounds. We are told that the point argued is in the 8th ground of appeal, and that ground is in the following words: "That simply "because Kadir did not demand any rent "from his neighbours for the religious obser- "vances they performed in his khouka, and "that admittedly with his permission, and "did not object to it, and therefore he has "lost all claim and right to the building, "is a conclusion which is opposed to all "law and equity;" but the real objection pressed upon us here now is that, because a brick-building was substituted in lieu of the thatched house that previously existed, the original title by permission no longer remained, and it is also urged that private rights of occupation co-exist with the use of the house as a house of prayer. This is the only argument now pressed upon us, but we see no force in it. The mere substitution of some bricks for thatch makes no difference in fact. The new building is simply a substitute for the house which has been found by the Court below to have vested in the public, by implied grant, tacit consent and user, for the purposes of resort for public prayer, and to have been blown down. I think that, under the facts found in this case, equity and good conscience do not justify our interference in special appeal: and I would, therefore, dismiss this appeal with costs.

Paul, J.—The contention of the special appellant in this case can only succeed if we are to divest our mind of all rules and principles of equity and good conscience, which under the law we are bound to administer. The grounds of special appeal seem to have been filed without any proper attention to the decision of the Court below or to the facts found therein and the reasonable inferences drawn therefrom. The grounds of special appeal, moreover, on their very face, are many of them irrational.

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I agree in dismissing this appeal with costs.

The 11th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating C Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *J*

Mistake by Judicial Officer—Section 270, C nal Procedure Code.

Reference to the High Court by the J of the Small Cause Court at D dated the 22nd February 1871.

(Anonymous.)

Where a Judicial Officer, from over-anxiety for th administration of justice in his Court, makes a m in taking steps against parties, whose conduct a to obstruct the course of justice, somewhat too and without due circumspection, it is not to be pre that he has acted vexatiously in the sense of S 270 of the Criminal Procedure Code, or otherwise in perfect good faith.

Case.—One Rajoo Shikdar of Atte village very close to Dacca, was cited on half of plaintiff in case No. 1271 of 1870 the Dacca Small Cause Court file, to app before me as a witness on 22nd Novem 1870, the day fixed for hearing. On Nazir's report that the witness was keep out of the way "for the purpose of avo ing the service of the summons," a pro mation under Section 159 of the Civil cedure Code was affixed in a conspic place of his house on the 27th Decem 1870. But when the case came on for h ing on the 29th of that month, I found the witness was not present in Court, was any petition filed on his behalf to s cause why he could not come. As s things do very frequently occur here handed him over to the Magistrate o charge of disobedience of summons. the then Joint Magistrate of Dacca, tried the case, and copies of whose deci and vernacular proceeding I take the lib of enclosing for the Honorable Court's spection, considered the witness not g and awarded in his favor a compensation Rupees 3-8 annas, which he desires me his roobakary of the 14th ultimo to s to him for payment to the aforesaid Raj Shikdar.

May I now be permitted to ask the Hon able Court's instructions as to the fund fr which the demand should be met? T commitment, I beg leave to say, was a *bo fide* one, and could not, from the very nat

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things, be one of a frivolous kind. The gistrate, in ordering a compensation, has d out a premium in such cases of disdience, and this, I fear, may go a great way ards lowering the status of the Civil rts in the estimation of the public e.

The judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

orman, C. J.—Baboo Russick Lall Bose, ll Cause Court Judge of Dacca, finding a witness, who had been summoned to d in a case before him, notwithstanding summons and a subsequent proclama- which had been issued under Section of the Code of Civil Procedure, was t on the day of hearing, directed that mplaint should be preferred before the Magistrate by a peada of his Court the witness had absconded in order to d being served with a summons, and had by committed an offence punishable r Section 172 of the Penal Code.

he peada in his information, after stating he had endeavoured to serve the sum- s on the witness but could not find him, , "No doubt, he kept out of the way."

summons having been issued by the istrate, the accused showed clearly that ad been absent at the house of an uncle ymensingh, and remained there till after roclamation. The Joint Magistrate dis- ed the case. He says: "The charge s brought without any grounds for be- ing that the defendant had intention- y absconded, and, considering it to be olous, I award the defendant Rupees 3-8 compensation."

he Joint Magistrate does not say who is ay the compensation, but sent a rooba- to the Small Cause Court Judge, re- ting that the amount might be paid.

n the report of the Small Cause Court ge, we have sent for the papers.

We think that there is no evidence in the ceedings to warrant the Joint Magistrate finding that the complaint of the Subor- ate Judge was frivolous and vexatious, as to justify him in making an order der Section 270 of the Code of Criminal Proce- e, awarding the payment of compensation the Small Cause Court Judge to the wit- .

We quash the Joint Magistrate's order illegal, and at the same time we desire to express our strong disapprobation of the conduct of the Joint Magistrate in causelessly making such an imputation on a Judicial Officer acting in the execution of his duty.

The Small Cause Court Judge would have done well to have observed the directions of Section 159 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and to have required some proof, which the Nazir's report was not, that the witness was absconding to avoid service of process, before issuing the proclamation, and again to have satisfied himself by some inquiry whether the witness was absconding, before making a charge against him under Section 172 of the Penal Code. But it is not because a Judicial Officer, from over-anxiety for the due administration of justice in his Court, makes a mistake in taking steps against parties whose conduct appears to obstruct the course of justice, somewhat too hastily and without due circumspection, that it is to be presumed that he has acted vexatiously or otherwise than in perfect good faith.

The 11th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Fraud—Prima-facie case—Onus probandi—Section 355, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 241 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, dated the 20th August 1870.

Gowhur Ali Khan (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Sakheena Khanum and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. C. Gregory and *Baboo Debender Narain Bose* for Appellant.

Messrs. R. T. Allan and *R. E. Twidale* and *Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf* for Respondents.

In a suit by a judgment-creditor to recover the amount of certain decrees by attachment and sale, and to have a certain deed of *bye-mokasa,* which was set

up by the judgment-debtor's wife, set aside as executed in fraud of creditors; where plaintiff showed the existence in the mind of the judgment-debtor of a sufficient motive for the fraud, and also that the said debtor was in the management of the estate claimed and in the receipt of its rents, it was held that plaintiff had started a *primâ-facie* case which shifted the *onus* on the defendant to prove the *bona fides* of the deed.

The true interpretation of Section 355, Act VIII. of 1859, is that, when a Court sees that by some inadvertence or mistake a party has not produced some evidence which he was capable of adducing, and that he is likely to be prejudiced by that omission or mistake, which was simply unintentional, undesigned, and accidental, the Court will allow such further evidence to be taken.

Bayley, J.—I AM of opinion that the judgment of the Lower Court in this case must be reversed with costs.

The plaintiff, Gowhur Ali Khan, sued to recover the principal and interest of certain decrees for costs by the attachment and sale of certain landed property, *viz.*, mouzah Rowee, mouzah Jalsookh Deeh, and mouzah Jeen Deeh, and to have a certain deed of bye-mokasa dated the 19th May 1864, and a deed of sale dated the 9th November 1868, and certain proceedings of the Judge dated the 3rd May 1869, allowing the claim of the defendant Sakheena Begum under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, set aside.

The parties sued are Sakheena Begum, the wife of Hubeeboollah Khan, the judgment-debtor, Sheo Pershad Singh, the purchaser of Jalsookh Deeh, Nujeeb Khan, the purchaser of Jeen Deeh, and Wajed Hossein and Wahid Hossein.

I may here state that, in regard to the defendant Sheo Pershad Singh, it is admitted that the deed of sale to him was signed by Hubeeboollah Khan, the vendor's husband himself, as a witness thereto, and therefore this purchaser cannot be said to have purchased the property without due precaution, and in such fraudulent manner as would give the plaintiff any cause of action against him. This is now admitted before us by plaintiff, and Sheo Pershad is discharged from all liability.

The plaintiff's case shortly is that the deed of mokasa and the subsequent deeds of sale under it were all fraudulent and collusive transactions got up in fraud of creditors.

The defendant Sakheena Begum's case was that the deed of mokasa was a *bonâ-fide* instrument, and the sales to the other defendants were also *bonâ fide*.

The Lower Court has held that the plaintiff has failed to establish the fraudulent character of the deed of mokasa or of purchases by the other defendants, and therefore, dismissed the plaintiff's suit.

The plaintiff appeals before us upon whole merits of the case.

Mr. Gregory for the plaintiff, appe has very properly, as above remarked mitted that, as against the defendant Pershad, he does not wish to prosec suit any further.

The main question, therefore, befo is, whether the deed of mokasa in fa the defendant Sakheena Begum is a bo instrument or not? If it is not, pl could still proceed for the realization o debts, which amounts to Rupees 9,000, a the property of Nujeeb Khan alone.

Now, a deed of mokasa is a deed in li ation of dower, and therefore it be shown that there was a dower. is urged, however, that, as the que of marriage and dower were not in before the Lower Court, the defen did not deem it necessary to adduce evidence on those points. This is an substantial excuse. But the very deed dower itself pleaded here is not produced.

Now, it was essential for defendant's c in this suit to adduce the best evidenc prove the deed, especially as this was deed which formed the very basis of right of the vendor-defendant Sakh and of the subsequent alienations by h the other defendants. It is said that deed is of a date anterior to the d against the debtors, and therefore there and could be, no fraud in the matter; b need hardly observe, as a matter of In judicial experience, that persons in habit of perpetrating such frauds have course to their preparation, not only at time when suits have been actually insti or are pending against them, but also b that period, and this last as a precaution step lest any future litigation would re in decrees against the parties thus acting.

It is then urged that dower is an ordin concomitant of all marriages; but, if so, w could be easier for the defendant than to p duce one or two witnesses to these two, is pleaded, inseparable transactions, marri and dower. The lady, the father of lady, the vakeel who represented her at marriage, and the Cazee, would be the evidence of both and of each of two ters. However, neither the deed of do

registry of marriage by the Cazee, nor er evidence of these facts has been pro- ed in the case. Again, a dower must be er "*prompt*" or "*deferred*." The omedan Law does not contemplate any r kind. But it is said before us that was a case of *prompt* dower with the ptional arrangement that it should *not* prompt, that is to say, that time was to the husband to enable him to pay money. Now, of this arrangement there o satisfactory evidence. Besides, if any peculiar arrangement as to the dower been made at all, it would have been at the time of the marriage, whereas ave now the lady at her 30th year, and deed dated the 19th May 1864, so that er prompt dower nor payment as ar- ed are shown.

here is also great discrepancy in the ence of the witnesses, especially as to persons who were present at the time e bye-mokasa. The witnesses 2 and 4 radict the witnesses 1 and 3. They that Ahmed Khan and Russool Khan present at the time, whereas the other say that Russool Khan alone was pre- and not Ahmed Khan. It is said that ool Khan and Ashruf Ali Khan were only present at the transaction, but took mportant part in it, but neither the one the other has been called in this case.

e are requested, however, to call those esses whose evidence we consider ma- before this Court, and examine them for the better ends of justice, but we that, by adopting such a course, we ld be, on the contrary, only lending our to the respondent in amending and mak- up more successfully a fraudulent case.

ooking to the several dates and the ardy which Hubeeboollah was in owing e litigation that was going on against it is not unreasonable to suppose that, der to provide against the chance of his ate failure in the litigation, he should taken the precaution of entering into collusive transaction as that above re- ed to. The witnesses are mostly ser- s and dependants of the defendants, and r evidence, in my opinion, has neither precision as to the details nor clear ing as to the *bonâ-fide* character of the action as to lead me to believe in its fulness. Naturally, Hubeeboollah, the band, would be the manager of the es- and the recipient of the rents, and would have the command and control of all. The papers might be in the mutated name of Sakheena Begum, and still the possession be really Hubeeboollah's, her husband.

Taking, therefore, the whole facts, circumstances, and evidence in the case into consideration, I think that the respondent has failed to rebut the case started by the plaintiff, and in this view I would reverse the judgment of the Lower Court, and decree the plaintiff's suit as against all the defendants except Sheo Pershad Singh with all costs of this litigation.

Paul, J.—I wish to make a few remarks. It appears that, from the year 1854 down even to the present time, litigation has been going on between Hubeeboollah on the one side and Gowhur Ali on the other. At the time of the execution of the bye-mokasa of the 19th May 1864, which is in dispute in this case, the fortunes of Hubeeboollah Khan in the suit had met with reversal in the Privy Council, and the case had been sent back for further trial. We also have it admitted on all sides that Hubeeboollah has sold away all his mouzahs except the three which it is said he made over to his wife Sakheena Khanum under the bye-mokasa in dispute in satisfaction of her dower. Under these circumstances, it is not too much to presume, in the absence of any strong and convincing evidence adduced in support of the bye-mokasa, that there was a sufficient motive existing in the mind of Hubeeboollah to enter into a colorable transaction in order to defeat his adversary in the suit going on, in the event of the ultimate result being against him. The existence of this motive is also clear from the evidence of the witnesses—that of Alhad Singh in particular—that after the execution of the bye-mokasa, Hubeeboollah has been as much in the management of the zemindary cutcherry and other matters relating to land as he was previous to the execution of the said deed. In fact, it is admitted on all sides that, notwithstanding the mere change of name in the papers, the important part that Hubeeboollah takes in the management of the estates is precisely the same as it was before the execution of the bye-mokasa. It is true that in matters of this description the husband may and does manage for the wife, and consequently it is not easy to say definitively who is the party in possession; but so far as the plaintiff in this case is concerned, we think he has started a *primâ-facie* case, firstly, by showing the existence of a

motive in the mind of Hubeeboollah with a view to defeating his adversary in the event of his success, and, secondly, by showing that Hubeeboollah was *de facto* in the management of the estates and the receipt of the rents. These matters being proved by the plaintiff, the onus shifts on the defendant to prove that the deed of bye-mokasa was executed *bonâ fide*. In order to support the deed of bye-mokasa, the defendant is obliged to prove two things: *firstly*, that the dower was exigible; and, *secondly*, the reason which prompted the person entitled to the dower not to insist upon its being paid at the time that the bye-mokasa was said to have been executed. Now, the evidence as to the dower is the most imperfect imaginable; and as to the reason which induced the wife to put a pressure upon the husband, we should have expected to have before us the best evidence that the subject was capable of. That best evidence would consist of the evidence of the lady herself, her father, and Ahmed Khan, her relative, but not one of the three has been examined in this case; and in lieu of their evidence attempt has been made to call half a dozen dependants and servants whose evidence on their very face is vague, wanting in precision, and certainly not exhibiting even the appearance of truthfulness. It is admitted by the witnesses of the defendant that the governing spirit over these alleged transactions was Russool Khan; that he was the person to whom accounts would be delivered by the servants; and one witness has the assurance of stating that he actually filed papers for the approval of Russool Khan. Now, if that were so, one would expect to find on the face of the papers some marks of Russool Khan's approval, but there is no mark whatever nor any indication that the papers were ever laid before Russool Khan.

From all that has been said, it is quite clear that, in a case like this brought with so much suspicion, it was the bounden duty of the defendant to call the best evidence available; and as she has not chosen to do so, the Court is justified in saying that she has failed to prove matters which lay within her knowledge, and which she had ample opportunity to prove, if the facts were true, by calling respectable witnesses.

It is stated, however, that the omission in calling the best witnesses ought to be rectified by this Court under the provisions of Section 355, Act VIII. of 1859, which enable the Court, when it considers necessary, to allow further evidence to be adduced. The Privy Council, however, have judicially remarked in the case of Sreeman Chunder Dey versus Gopal Chunder Chuckerbutty and others, reported at page 28, Volume XI., Moore's Indian Appeal Cases, that this power should be sparingly exercised, and I consider that the true interpretation that we should give to the terms of that Section is that, when a Court sees that, by some inadvertence or mistake a party has not produced some evidence which he was capable of adducing, and that he is likely to be prejudiced by that omission or mistake, which was simply unintentional, not designed, and accidental, the Court should allow such further evidence to be taken; but it was certainly not intended by that Section that, when a party has had the fullest notice as the lady in this case had in May 18[illegible] six months before the present suit, that her title was challenged, and she does not call the respectable witnesses, that she has not a right to say in the agonies of despair at losing this suit that she should be allowed a fresh opportunity of producing further evidence. I would further remark that in this case we have not the slightest indication that Russool Khan himself was aware of the transactions, for I cannot help thinking that if the interests of the wife and the husband were adverse, Russool Khan would have had the management of the affairs of this lady. Had I any reason to believe that the omission to examine Russool Khan and others was simply an accidental omission, I would have certainly exercised the power that has been given us under Section 355; but as I said before, there is not the slightest evidence on the record that it was so, and certainly we should not exercise that power for the protection and assistance of people who do not, as directed by numbers of decisions of this Court, call the best evidence of which their case is capable of being supported.

In this view, I think that this appeal should be decreed, the deed of bye-mokasa should be set aside, and Mr. Gregory's client should be entitled to execute his decree exempting the property of Mr. Allan's client.

* 7 W. R., P. C., p. 10.

The 11th May 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

tation—Proof—Possession (joint or several) —Alteration of form of decree—Section 16, ourt Fees Act.

Case No. 2559 of 1870.

ecial Appeal from a decision passed by the Second Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 22nd August 1870, modifying a decision of the Moonsiff of Baraset, dated the 30th December 1869.

sonath Chatterjee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Madhubmonee Dabee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Khetter Mohun Mookerjee for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Kishen Sein and *Opendro Chunder Bose* for Respondent.

Where plaintiff prayed for a separation into two equal res of the whole property to which she and the endant were jointly entitled, and the Lower Court reed to her joint and undivided possession of her share, and she also succeeded in the whole of her im as before the High Court in special appeal:

HELD that, as the separate possession by partition is form of decree at the option of the plaintiff, the urt was in justice bound to grant her request that decree should be re-framed in such a manner as to ard possession to her in severalty without regard to y stamp-fee.

HELD that Section 16 of the Court Fees Act relates, t to such a case as this, but to that class of cases in ich a party, losing substantially a portion of his im, is precluded from re-agitating and re-asserting t portion of his claim before the Appellate Court thout paying the proper stamp-fee.

The phrases "attesting a document" and "proving document" severally defined and distinguished.

Paul, J.—IN this case, the special appeal erely relates to a portion of the subject-atter in suit, namely, as to that portion of e decision of the Lower Appellate Court hich holds that, with regard to the mâl and sued for, the defendant's mokurruree pottah is not proved. The finding is simply me of fact, and could only be disturbed in special appeal if the party appealing could show either that the Court below had committed an error in law, or had so misconceived or misconstrued the evidence as to render the investigation a mis-trial.

The pleader for the appellant endeavours to show that the Lower Court has not come to a clear finding upon the evidence of the witnesses, inasmuch as that Court says that "the defendant's witnesses cannot be believed when they say that it (meaning the pottah) was executed by the plaintiff in her husband's house where the defendant now puts up;" and his argument is that the Lower Court, disbelieving the witnesses as to the place where the document was alleged to have been executed, did not clearly say that he disbelieved the witnesses wholly.

Now, in my experience of special appeals, I have hardly seen a ground more finely drawn up than this. It is quite clear that, if the locality in which it was alleged the plaintiff had executed the document was not proved as the place in which she had executed it, I apprehend that the evidence of those witnesses who speak to the execution of the document may be rightly disbelieved. Consequently, this ground of appeal entirely fails.

It has been further urged that the Lower Court made a mistake in saying that the pottah is not attested by any witness. It appears to me that the pleader has wholly misconceived the meaning of the word "attested." The Judge was quite right in what he said, namely, that the pottah is not attested by any witness; for on looking at the pottah, it is to be observed that the pottah is not attested. But the pleader has fallen into an error in supposing that the Judge has used the word "attested" for the word "proved." *Attesting a document* is simply writing the signature of a witness by himself in the document in proof of the fact that the document was executed by the party executing in his presence. *Proving a document* is proving it upon the oath of witnesses in Court. But the error into which the pleader has fallen is not one for which he is altogether personally chargeable; because I have frequently observed this erroneous meaning attempted to be put upon the word "*attested.*"

Thirdly, the pleader for the defendant urges that the plaintiff and her brother admitted that the defendant came to their house in 1271, and verbally undertook to

pay the plaintiff 6 arees of paddy for the mâl, and 3 annas for the lakheraj lands, as a temporary arrangement, that is to say, until a better offer should be made by any other person; and that he was entitled to hold by his temporary arrangement. Had the plaintiff admitted a temporary arrangement subsisting at the time of the institution of her suit, the pleader would have been quite right. But inasmuch as the plaintiff on the one side alleged that this temporary arrangement had fallen through, and the defendant equally urges it was gone by reason of a mokurruree pottah being substituted in its place, it is quite clear that the defendant cannot now seek to hold possession of the land on that ground. Therefore, on the whole, this special appeal must be dismissed with costs.

Then the plaintiff respondent raises an objection to the form of the decree granted to her by the Lower Court. The pleader for the respondent says that the plaintiff prayed for a separation into two equal shares of the whole of the property, to which she and the defendant were jointly entitled; but the Lower Court, instead of giving her the decree she prayed for, has decreed to her joint and undivided possession of her half share.

The pleader for the appellant, being called upon to resist this contention, raises a preliminary objection which I shall presently notice; but concedes to the plaintiff that the contention on her part is perfectly correct. If then the preliminary objection taken by the defendant appellant fails, the decree which the plaintiff asks, being a proper decree, should be made.

The preliminary objection raised as before mentioned is taken under Section 16 of the Court Fees Act; and the words of that Section are: "When any appeal is presented "to a Civil Court, not against the whole of "a decision, but only against so much there-"of as relates to a portion of the subject-"matter of the suit, and the respondent takes, "under Section 348 of the Code of Civil Pro-"cedure, an objection to any part of the said "decision other than the part appealed "against, the Court shall not hear such ob-"jection until the respondent shall have "paid the additional fee which would have "been payable had the appeal comprised "the part of the decision so objected to."

It is contended under that Section that, as the appeal in this case was presented only against a portion of the subject-matter suit, namely, the decision relating to the land, the plaintiff is not entitled to h the decree re-framed with reference to mâl land altogether with the other la without paying the difference between amount of the appeal payable for the w suit, and the difference paid by the sp appellant and the sum of two rupees paid the plaintiff.

There are two distinct answers to preliminary objection with reference to circumstances of this case. *First*, i quite clear that, so far as the mâl land, subject-matter of the suit, is concern the decree can be re-framed or prop framed by this Court; and as the de must be re-framed with regard to the lands, I apprehend that it is not possibl do so without re-framing it as to the c lands recovered in this suit in some form other; and as the separate possession partition is a form of decree at the op of the plaintiff, there can be no reason wh ever against re-framing the decree as to lands other than the mâl lands in such manner as to award possession in severa to the plaintiff.

Secondly, I hold that the Section of Court Fees Act cited relates only to t class of cases in which a party losing s stantially a portion of his claim is preclud from re-agitating and re-asserting that p tion of his claim before the Appellate Co without paying the proper stamp-fee. the present case, however, the plaintiff succeeded in the whole of her claim as fore us in this appeal; and she merely a this Court, as the decree is before us, frame it properly, not to alter it subst tially, nor to grant her anything more th she has obtained a decree for. This, think, we are in justice bound to do with regard to any stamp-fee, for the expr purpose of terminating this litigation, whi it is admitted, must further proceed unl the decree be re-framed as asked for by plaintiff.

The special appeal, therefore, must dismissed with costs, and the decree ma in favor of the respondent must be re-frame and we direct that the plaintiff be declar entitled to recover possession of the lan decreed to her, and that she be put in possession of the same in severalty by p tition between the plaintiff and defendant.

Bayley, J.—I merely wish to add a few rds with regard to what has been said by e pleader for the appellant as to the Court es Act.

It is urged upon us that Government enue will suffer if we hear the cross-peal on the part of the respondent, which put in on a stamp of two rupees.

The fact is that the object of the Legis-ure in the Court Fees Act is to levy mp-duty proportionately on certain forms cross-appeal under the Civil Procedure de, *where* increase of land or money will the result. But in this case the stamps be given cannot affect the revenue, for increase of land or money will be the lt of the cross-appeal. This cross-ap-l is simply to alter the form of decree for same land, but in severalty, and no more. would be, therefore, unjust, and opposed the Court Fees Act not to admit the oss-appeal.

The 12th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Contracts (joint and several)—Suit against co-contractor—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 19 of 1871.

ecial Appeal from a decision passed by the 1st Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, dated the 3rd November 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 24th June 1870.

oomar Narain Doss (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Coomar Mytee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

aboo Bykunt Nath Paul for Appellant.

Moulvie Murhumut Hossein for Respondent.

Plaintiff, defendant, and another party had jointly and erally contracted with Government to do certain work, positing security, and stipulating that a percentage upon the worth of the work done should be retained in the hands of Government to meet the contingency of e Government incurring expense in case of failure on the part of the contractors. The contract was completed by one of the contractors, who received the amount which had been deducted as above, and gave a joint receipt for the same.

HELD that there was nothing in law to prevent plaintiff from recovering as from defendant his share of the said amount.

Such a suit was not one for money due on a contract, and was not cognizable by a Small Cause Court.

Kemp, J.—A PRELIMINARY objection was taken by the pleader for the respondent that, this being a suit of a nature cognizable by the Small Cause Court, no special appeal lies to this Court. We think that there is no ground for this contention. This is not a suit for money due on a contract. There is no contract as between the plaintiff and the defendant, Ram Coomar Mytee, and therefore this is not a suit which is cognizable by the Small Cause Courts. We, therefore, overrule the preliminary objection.

The plaintiff and the defendant Ram Coomar Mytee, and another party, entered into a contract with the Executive Engineer, Mr. Kimber, whereby the plaintiff, and the defendant Ram Coomar Mytee, Sreemonto Lal and Bykunt Nath, jointly and severally contracted to erect certain embankments for the Irrigation Department in the district of Midnapore. Three thousand rupees Government promissory notes were deposited as security, and it was also stipulated that for every 100 rupees worth of work done a sum of 10 rupees or 10 per cent. was to be kept in the hands of the Executive Engineer to meet the contingency of the Government incurring any expenses in completing the work owing to the failure of the contractors to perform their contract. We may mention here that, although 10 per cent. was originally agreed upon, it was subsequently arranged between the parties that 5 per cent. only was to be kept in the hands of the Executive Engineer for the above-mentioned purpose.

The plaintiff says that for work done by him and the defendant Ram Coomar Mytee from January to March, and for work done from April to August 1865 by the plaintiff, the defendant Ram Coomar, and Sreemonto, a total sum of Rupees 324 on account of the first period and of 766 rupees on account of the second period was kept in the hands of the Executive Engineer under the terms of the contract. The plaintiff, therefore, sues, alleging that, as the contract was completed, he is entitled to one-half of the sum of Rupees 324 on the work done by

him and Ram Coomar, and for one-third of the sum of Rupees 766 on the work done by him and by Ram Coomar and Sreemonto; or to a total of Rupees 417-5-4.

The Court of first instance gave the plaintiff a decree against Ram Coomar in the first instance, and directed that, if Ram Coomar did not pay the amount decreed, the plaintiff would be entitled to recover the amount from Mr. Kimber. On appeal, the Subordinate Judge has reversed the decision of the first Court, and dismissed the plaintiff's suit. The Subordinate Judge's decision seems to proceed on the supposition that, because Ram Coomar had completed the work, therefore the plaintiff was not entitled to recover the sum claimed. There is nothing in the Subordinate Judge's decision beyond this which requires particular notice.

We think in this case that the decision of the Court of first instance is right, and that of the Subordinate Judge is wrong in law, and that it must be set aside, and the decision of the first Court restored.

It is admitted that the plaintiff did work from January to March 1865 and from April to August 1865. It is also not shown that the Government were put to any extra expense in completing the contract which the defendants had entered into jointly and severally owing to the failure of the contractors to perform their contract, and therefore that the Government through their Engineer were not called upon to incur any expenses in completing the contract, which were to be met by the amount deposited as security in Government promissory notes as well as by the percentage of 5 per cent. deducted upon the work done. Such being the case, we think the first Court was right in holding that, when the contract was completed by one of the contractors, there was nothing in law to prevent the plaintiff, who is admittedly one of the parties who contracted with the Government through their Executive Engineer, from recovering his share of the amount deducted as aforesaid. We have also been shown in the course of the argument that the defendant Ram Coomar did receive and give a joint receipt for the amount which is now claimed as the amount which Mr. Kimber had deducted and kept in lieu of security in case the Government should be put to any expense owing to the non-fulfilment of the contract entered into by the defendants. Such being the case, it seems to us clear that the plaintiff is entitled to recover [illegible] from Ram Coomar, who has admittedly [illegible] ceived these sums from Mr. Kimber, [illegible] share of the money retained for the w[illegible] done by him with Ram Coomar and [illegible] other contractor. We, therefore, decree [illegible] special appeal, and reverse the decision [illegible] the Subordinate Judge with costs.

As Mr. Kimber has not been made [illegible] party to this appeal, the decree of the C[illegible] is as against Ram Coomar alone, and [illegible] against Mr. Kimber.

The 12th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glo[illegible]
Judges.

Decree—Solehnamah—Proceeding to keep [illegible] decree alive.

Case No. 43 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order pass[illegible] by the Second Subordinate Judge [illegible] Hooghly, dated the 19th November 1870.

Preo Madhub Sircar (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Bissumbhur Sircar and others (Judgment-debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Umbica Churn Bose for Appellant.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Respondents.

Where parties to a suit which had been decreed [illegible] tered after remand into a compromise, and filed a sol[illegible] namah in accordance with which the case was decided [illegible]

HELD that an application to execute the solehnam[illegible] was not a proceeding taken on the basis of the decr[illegible] and being, therefore, illegal, could not keep the decr[illegible] alive.

Kemp, J.—THE decree-holder, Pr[illegible] Madhub Sircar, is the appellant. The secon[illegible] Subordinate Judge of Hooghly observ[illegible] that the decree was passed on the 15th [illegible] July 1864. Subsequently, on appeal, th[illegible] suit was remanded, and both parties filed [illegible] solehnamah in accordance with which th[illegible] suit was decided, and the decree-hold[illegible] took out execution of the said solehnam[illegible] on the 20th of March 1868. The Subor[illegible]nate Judge found that that proceeding [illegible]

ecute the solehnamah was not a proceed-g taken on the basis of the decree; and efore, it being illegal, and no proceeding eep the decree alive having been taken een July 1864 and the present applica- on the 27th of September 1869, he d that the application was barred.

It is necessary in this case to trace the tory of it with a view to ascertain ther the decree has been kept alive or by the proceedings taken by the decree-der. The case has been argued at great gth and with much ability. It appears us clear that the decision of the Subor-nate Judge is correct, and that this appeal st be dismissed. The decree was passed the 15th of July 1864 against the re-ondents. They appealed to this Court, d this Court remanded the case to take ther evidence under the provisions of ction 355.

In the meantime, the parties compromised e case, and executed a razeenamah and ffeenamah, and the appeal being with-awn was struck off the file. Subse-ently, or in March 1868, the appellant plied, not to execute the decree, but to ecute the solehnamah. Under Section 212, he was bound to state the mode in hich the assistance of the Court was quired to enforce the decree. On turning the petition applying for execution, we d that the prayer was for execution with ference to the terms of the solehnamah on which the High Court's decree was sed. It was further stated that the appli-nt had obtained a certificate under Act XVII. of 1860; that the opposite party had t acted up to the terms of the solehnamah, d therefore the prayer was to execute the lehnamah, and to obtain possession with ssilat. Now, it is admitted by the plead-for the appellant that that petition did t apply for execution of the decree, and t the Lower Court was not competent to force the solehnamah in the execution-ge, but only by regular suit; but it is con-nded by him that, under Section 15, Act XIII. of 1861, it was the duty of the ourt either to return the application for rrection to the person making it, or with e consent of such person to cause the ecessary correction to be made; that the ourt not having done so and having receiv-that application as an application to ecute the decree, and having kept it for me time on its file, that he is entitled to deduct the period during which the application was on the file of the Lower Court.

In support of this view, a decision published in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 15, has been relied upon by the pleader. That decision contemplates a case where a party put in an application to execute a decree. That application, when it was put in, was in time, and therefore the learned Judges held that the Judge, if the application was incorrect or irregular, ought to have returned the application for correction as soon as it was put in, instead of keeping it for six months when it became barred under the statute of limitation. But that case does not in any way apply to the case before the Court. In this case, there was no application to execute the original decree; the application was made most distinctly to execute the solehnamah. Now, the terms of the solehnamah altogether differ from the original decree. Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee, for the special respondent, pointed out several instances in which the solehnamah varied the original decree. It will be sufficient to point out that the claim for wassilat which had been decreed was given up; that each party was to pay their own costs; that the consideration-money of certain properties was given up; that certain properties were exclusively made over to the other side which had been claimed and had been decreed, and that land was given in exchange; and there is also a clear alteration of the terms of the decree as to the extent of the shares of the parties. In short, we think it sufficient to say that the razeenamah and suffeenamah altogether did away with the decree, and varied it. Subsequently, after the decree-holder found out his mistake, he appears to have made an application to this Court on the 1st of September 1869, or very shortly before he made his last application to execute the decree. That application was not made in the presence of the opposite party, nor were they present when the order was passed. The order of the learned Judge, Mr. Justice Macpherson, who sat alone, is to this effect—that he does not see that he can interfere in the case now; that the appeal to this Court having been simply withdrawn and struck off, the original decree of the Court of first instance stands unreversed; that the proceedings which took place in that Court have not the effect of setting aside or altering that decree; and that it appeared to him that the applicants must move under that decree, and

not in this Court in the manner proposed by him. Acting upon this suggestion, the appellant, on the 27th of September 1869, sought to execute the original decree; but on that date, either taking as the starting point the date of the decree, namely, 15th July 1864, or the date of the order of the High Court of the 30th of January 1866, he is clearly beyond time. The application which he made in March 1868 not being an application to enforce the decree, there has been no application under Section 20, Act XIV. of 1859, to enforce or keep the original decree alive within three years from the last application, which was made on the 27th of September 1869.

We, therefore, think that the Subordinate Judge was right in holding that the application was barred, and we dismiss the appeal with costs.

The 12th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Embankments—Rights—User—Onus probandi.

Case No. 1647 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Patna, dated the 18th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Behar, dated the 7th January 1870.

Heeranund Sahoo (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Khubeeroonissa (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Respondent.

A party claiming to erect a bund in a natural flowing river, so as entirely to cut off the water from another party, is bound to prove that he has acquired the legal right to do so by user.

Macpherson, J.—We have some hesitation in interfering with the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court in this instance, because the case has evidently been very carefully tried and considered.

The point in which we think that the judgment of the Court below is defective (and upon which we think it is necessary that the case should be remanded) is that there is no clear finding as to the right of the defendant to erect the bund complained of. The bund is erected in a natural flowing river; and it is alleged by the plaintiff, and admitted by the defendant, that it entirely cuts off the water from the plaintiff. This being so, it appears to us that it lies upon the defendant to prove his right to erect the bund.

It is not perfectly clear in what light the Judge of the Court below viewed the question of *onus;* and it is not quite clear whether he did or did not mean to find as a fact that the defendant had proved a legal right of user to this bund. We have no doubt, however, that the defendant cannot erect this bund as against the plaintiffs, unless he proves that he has acquired the legal right to do so by user.

The Court must now decide distinctly and expressly for what length of time the defendant has been in the habit of erecting this bund, and whether he has been in the habit of erecting it for such a length of time as gives him a legal right to maintain it as against the plaintiff.

It appears to us that the question as to whether there is or is not water in the old bed of the river has very little to do with the matter which is now in dispute between the parties. We think, also, that the question whether the present bed of the river runs through the defendant's old reservoir has also very little to do with the present matter. There is no doubt upon the case, as stated by both parties, that the river has for very many years run in the channel in which it is at present; and, that being so, the plaintiff is entitled to have the reasonable and ordinary use of its water, unless the defendant, by having gained the right to erect the bund, is entitled to divert the water from its natural course.

This case, therefore, is remanded in order that the precise nature of the defendant's right in respect of that bund may be inquired into and decided. The parties respectively will bear their own costs of this appeal.

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The 12th May 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

rtgagor—Putnees—Intermediate holders—Under-tenure.

Case No. 1816 of 1870.

ecial Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Jessore, dated the 31st May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 26th January 1870.

ulvie Ahmed Ali and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants*,

versus

Bhoobun Mohun Dass (Defendant), *Respondent*.

r. R. E. Tividale and *Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboo Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty for Respondent.

The mortgagors of a talook, having succeeded in a for redemption against the mortgagees and persons whom the latter had given a portion of the estate putnee, were put in possession under the decree. y then brought a suit for a declaration of their t to receive rent from two under-tenants (F and M), o had given them a kubooleut, but against whom endant had obtained a decree for rent in the Collec's Court. Defendant's case was that within the k was a jumma formerly held by one B, who had d it to him, and that he (defendant) had been paying t to the mortgagee's putneedar, and had settled the er-tenants F and M in B's dwelling-house at a tain rent.

Held that the real question was whether the jote mma gave defendant a right to possession as against rtgagors re-entering after redemption, *i. e.*, what was nature, whether mourosee, mokurruree, or otherwise.

Norman, C. J.—Moulvie Ahmed Ali d Moulvie Abdool Jubbar, the plaintiffs, ought this suit for possession of 1 pakee d 4 kanees of land included within talook No. 28.

The plaintiff's case is that this talook No. 28 called Mookeem Khan was mortgaged in the year 1202 by the predecessor in title of the present plaintiffs to one Kazee Tureekoollah; that the plaintiffs brought a suit for redemption against the mortgagees and certain other persons to whom the mortgagees had granted a portion of the estate in putnee, and obtained a decree for possession on the 30th May 1866, and that, under this decree, they were put in possession in August 1867. The plaintiffs further allege that Futeek Karigur and Mookeem Karigur gave a kubooleut for 5 pakees 15 kanees of land on the 14th Kartick 1274, or 30th October 1867. The defendant, alleging that these two persons, Futeek Karigur and Mookeem Karigur, were his tenants, had sued them for rent in the Collector's Court under the provisions of Act X. of 1859. The plaintiffs intervened, and the Deputy Collector made a decree in favor of the defendant in the present suit; upon which the plaintiffs in the present suit, Ahmed Ali and Abdool Jubbar, brought their suit to have their right to receive rent from the land in dispute declared.

The defendant's case is that within the plaintiff's talook No. 28 there was a jumma formerly held by one Bissonath Manjee at 20 rupees sicca, or Co.'s Rupees 21-6 annas; that Bissonath Manjee sold this jumma to the defendant on the 15th of Assar 1262; that after this purchase of Bissonath's interests, the defendant settled Futeek and Mookeem Karigur in the dwelling-house which had formerly belonged to Bissonath Manjee paying a rent of 1-4 annas. The defendant says that he has been paying rent to the proprietor of the Meergunge Factory, to whom the mortgagees granted a portion of the talook in putnee.

The first Court made a decree in favor of the plaintiffs on grounds into which it is not necessary that we should enter here. But amongst other things, Baboo Grish Chunder Chowdhry, the Moonsiff, held that the defendant could not show that the jumma of 20 rupees had been created by the talookdars before the date of the mortgage; that the defendant could not show what was the nature of the jote jumma, whether it was mourosee, mokurruree, or otherwise.

From that decision, there was an appeal to the Subordinate Judge who laid down two issues. He appears to have wholly misunderstood the nature of the questions which he had to try.

He first supposes that the plaintiffs had not proved that they ever got a kubooleut from Futeek Karigur and Mookeem Karigur; that the plaintiffs have not proved that the land in dispute was included in talook No. 28; and then he raised a question whether the defendant actually purchased the jumma rights of the land. He dismisses the plaintiffs' case on the ground that they had failed to prove the affirmative of the issues which he had raised.

Now, it appears that there is really no doubt whatever, in fact, it is admitted by both sides, that the lands in dispute were included in talook No. 28. There is on the record a kubooleut, which appears to have been registered, given by Futeek Karigur and Mookeem Karigur to the plaintiffs. There is very little evidence as to whether that kubooleut was given or not, but apparently it was a matter not disputed. No doubt, when the plaintiffs, as mortgagors, got possession of the property under their decree, the under-tenants would naturally attorn to them. The real question which the Subordinate Judge had to try, and should have tried, but which he did not try, was whether the jote jumma formerly held by Bissonath Manjee and his predecessor Okheel Manjee, which has since passed into the hands of the defendant by purchase, was a jumma which gave to the defendant a right to possession of the land as against the plaintiffs, the representatives of the mortgagors, who have re-entered after the decree for redemption.

There appears to be the evidence of certain witnesses, in particular of two of them, Bukhtar Khan and Mahomed Lall, which shows that the Manjees were in possession from, or from before, the commencement of the present century. If Bukhtar Khan's evidence is to be taken literally, and if his estimate of his own age be correct, he proves conclusively that Okheel Manjee was in possession prior to the mortgage in 1202. He may possibly be mistaken as to his age, but certainly his evidence goes to show that the tenure was a permanent and transferable tenure; that it had been held by the Manjees from father to son, and that it was sold to the defendant.

The tenure was sold to the defendant. Of that there is no doubt. If the tenure had not been a permanent and transferable tenure, it was open to the putneedars to have questioned the right of the defendants, and no doubt they would have done so and enhanced the rents. There is strong evidence on the record on which the Subordinate Judge will probably feel himself justified in coming to the conclusion that the tenure was a permanent and transferable tenure.

One question is—has it been held since the time of the settlement? If not, it appears to us that there is no reason whatever why the Subordinate Judge should not come to the conclusion that it was created subsequent to the settlement and prior to the mortgage.

We have distinct traces of the tenure at the commencement of the present century. The inference is not that it was created at the instant at which the evidence shows that it was an existing tenure, but that it existed then and for some indefinite period antecedently to that time.

There is certainly evidence to justify the inference that this was a mourosee mokurruree tenure, valid not only as against the mortgagees, but as against the whole world.

The case will be remanded for re-trial. Costs of the former hearing and of this appeal will abide the result.

The 15th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Section 35, Act XXIII. of 1861—Application—Limitation.

In the Matter of

Russick Lall Chatterjee and another, *Petitioners*.

Baboo Umbica Churn Banerjee for Petitioners.

An application to the High Court, under Section 35 of Act XXIII. of 1861, to order a subordinate Court to receive an appeal, which, in ordinary course, ought to have been received within 15 days of the original

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ion ought to be made either immediately upon quashing of the order of the subordinate Appellate , or promptly and without any avoidable delay.

orman, C. J.—RUSSICK LALL CHATTER- and Shaikh Jubboo were convicted, er Section 145 of Act X. of 1859, of ing a distraint of property belonging ne Kadir Buksh. They were ordered the Deputy Collector to make good to distrainer the sum of 688 rupees, being value of certain attached crops which been cut and carried away by them. y were also sentenced to a fine of 25 ees, and in default of payment to impri- ment for 15 days in the Civil Jail.

rom that decision, Russick Lall and kh Jubboo presented an appeal to the ge, who, on the 17th February 1870, ersed the order of the Deputy Collector far as it directed the petitioners to pay rupees as damages to the distrainer.

manutoollah, as agent on account of erutoonnissa Bibee, the distrainer, ap- d to this Court, under Section 15 of the and 25 Victoria, C. 104, to set aside the er of the Judge upon the ground that Judge had no jurisdiction to entertain appeal. This Court, on the 28th January 71, quashed the Judge's order as having n made without jurisdiction.

On the 10th of March 1871, the petition- Russick Lall and Shaikh Jubboo present- an appeal to the Collector under the visions of Sections 155 and 156 of Act of 1859. On the 13th March, the Col- tor rejected the appeal upon the ground it was out of time; that he had no retion under Section 156 of Act X. of 9 to extend the time for presenting a tion of appeal, and that he was, therefore, nd to reject it.

On the 24th March, the petitioners ob- ned a copy of the Collector's order; and , on this 15th of May, they apply to this urt for an order that the Collector should eive their petition of appeal under the 5th Section. The vakeel for the petition- refers to the 35th Section of Act XXIII. 1861, contending that, in any case where ppears to this Court that in hearing an eal a subordinate Court has exercised urisdiction not vested in him by law, this urt may pass such order in the case as to the Court may seem right, and contends that this Court may now make an order that the Collector's Court may receive the appeal. And in support of that contention, he refers to the case of Kristo Indur Roy Chowdhry against Roopinee Bibee, reported in 6 Weekly Reporter, Act X. Rulings, page 57.

We are of opinion that, if the Court is to exercise the jurisdiction of sending to some other Court an appeal which has been presented to, and dealt with by, a subordinate Appellate Court which had no jurisdiction to entertain it, that the application should be made promptly, at any rate within a reasonable time, after the order of such subordinate Appellate Court has been quashed by this Court as made without jurisdiction. The appeal which the petitioners now seek to present is one which ought to have been presented to the Collector within *fifteen* days after the decision of the Deputy Collector.

It would appear probable that the time for appealing to the Collector had passed when the appeal was presented to the Judge. However that may be, after this Court had set aside the order of the Judge as made without jurisdiction, the petitioners waited *one month and twenty days* before they applied to the Collector to receive their appeal; and after that appeal was rejected by the Collector on the 13th March, they waited for *two months and two days* before making the present application to this Court.

We think that, where, under Section 35 of Act XXIII. of 1861, an application is made to this Court to order a subordinate Court to receive an appeal, which in ordinary course ought to have been received within fifteen days of the original decision, such application ought to be made either immediately upon the quashing of the order of the subordinate Appellate Court, or at any rate promptly and without any avoidable delay.

In the present case, the time which the applicant has allowed to elapse is wholly unreasonable with reference to the time ordinarily allowed for an appeal.

We therefore think we ought not to interfere, and must leave the parties to their rights under the Deputy Collector's order as it stands.

The 15th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Arrears of rent—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 20 of 1871 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Rungpore, dated the 27th December 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 13th May 1870.

Sharoda Pershad Mookerjee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Sreenath Mookerjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Mohinee Mohun Roy* for Appellant.

Baboo Kallee Prosunno Dutt for Respondent.

A suit by a lessor for arrears of rent is triable by a Revenue Court under Act X. of 1859, if the principal matter demised under the lease is land, and if indigo-factories on such land are merely the adjuncts or appurtenances.

Paul, J.—In this case, the plaintiff sued the defendant for arrears of rent due under an ijarah lease in respect of certain zemindaries containing, among other things, 3 or 4 indigo-factories.

The Lower Appellate Court has held that the Revenue Court in which the suit was tried had no jurisdiction under the provisions of Act X. of 1859 to entertain such a suit, it being in the opinion of the Lower Appellate Court a suit rather for the rents of the buildings and houses, &c., which formed the indigo-factory than of lands which were let out for the cultivation of indigo.

It is quite clear, however, that in this case the principal matter demised under the lease was the land of the zemindaries, the two or three indigo-factories being merely adjuncts or appurtenances thereto. That being so, the suit was for the arrears of the rent of land, and was, therefore, triable by the Revenue Court under Act X. of 1859.

We do not think it necessary to discuss the cases cited. No one case cited by the Court below goes the length of holding that, when the principal subject-matter of a lease consists, not of buildings or houses, but of land, the suit will not lie in the Revenue Court. Here the principal matter demised was land, and the three or four indigo-factories formed merely the adjuncts or appurtenances thereto.

We, therefore, think that the Revenue Court had jurisdiction to try the present case, and we accordingly remand it to the Lower Appellate Court to be tried on the merits.

The 15th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. C. Paul, *Judge.*

Enhancement—Notice—Landlord and tenant.

Case No. 1655 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Nuddea, dated the 1st June 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of Kooshteah, dated the 28th November 1868.

Sree Gopal Mullick (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Dwarkanath Sein (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Sreenath Doss for Appellant.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Bunshee Dhur Sein* for Respondent.

In the case of a tenant who has no right of occupancy, a landlord's notice of enhancement under Section 15 Act X. of 1859, is valid if it specifies the rent to which the tenant will be subject for the ensuing year and the ground on which enhancement is claimed, even if, among the reasons assigned, are some which will not bear examination. The only limit to the landlord's power of enhancement after notice is the fairness and reasonableness of the rent.

If the notice is sufficient to enable the tenant to meet and contest the landlord's demand in the original suit and on regular appeal, its insufficiency cannot be objected to in special appeal.

When a person in possession of land, without paying rent, is served by the landlord, under whom he previously held, with notice that he must either quit or pay a reasonable rent, and such person chooses to remain in possession, he must be taken to have assented to become a tenant, and is liable to the payment of rent.

Norman, C. J.—This was a suit for rent at an enhanced rate after notice.

The defendant, the purchaser of the te-e of Mr. Thomas Kenny, holds 782 big-, 7 cottahs of land, of which Mr. Kenny 11 annas as tenant to the plaintiff. Lower Court finds that he held as a .

he notice of enhancement, which bears the 21st of Choitro 1272, was in the wing form :—

"You are in the occupation of the lands" scribing them) "without any settlement title; you have no right of occupancy nder Section 6 of Act X. of 1859. You re an intermediate holder between the emindar and the cultivator. Notice is, herefore, given to you that, 15 days after e receipt of this notice, you do present urself before me, and enter into a settle-ent of the lands aforesaid at rates of nt to be fixed upon, so that you may ke a pottah for a few years, and give me kubooleut. Should you not think it oper, you are to surrender the land within the said time. Should you con-ue in occupation of the lands in ques-on after the expiry of the said time, then, the rent paid by you at present is far elow the pergunnah rates and the pre-iling rates as well as the rates prevailing in the surrounding lands, and as at present e productive powers of the lands and e value of the produce have increased ithout your industry, fair and equitable tes are fixed for these lands below, and ou shall be bound to pay the rents in ccordance therewith, or khas possession f the lands shall be taken, and no objec-ons on your part to the same shall be dmitted."

hen follows a schedule giving a detail of lands with their measurement and quali-nd the rates for each sort of land, on the g of which a claim is made for rupees 6, annas 11, pie 8 as rent for biggahs , cottahs 7, chittack 1, the amount of plaintiff's 11 annas share in the land.

he parties went to trial, and the case once remanded, when, after an elaborate uiry before the second Deputy Collector, rates were fixed for the different descrip-s of land.

On the hearing of the appeal before the ge from the decision on remand, the ob-ion was for the first time urged orally—for was not in the written grounds of appeal —that the notice of enhancement was insufficient. The Judge overruled the objection, and the point has again been raised on special appeal from his decision before us. One of the objections, which was also urged before us, is that defendant was a middleman, and that the Deputy Collector did not go into evidence of the rates paid by middlemen. The defendant does not pretend to be a ryot having a right of occupancy. That being so, the position of the tenant, independently of any legislative enactment, would be simply this: he is in possession of land as a tenant whose tenancy is determinable.

The landlord serves him with notice which informs him that he may continue to occupy the land if he pleases at a certain rent, and that, if he does not choose to pay such rent, he must quit the land. Section 13 of Act X. of 1859 says that the notice to enable a landlord to claim enhanced rent *must specify the rent to which the tenant will be subject for the ensuing year, and the ground on which enhancement of rent is claimed.*

The notice served in the present case clearly gives the required information. It informs him with reference to what circumstances the landlord thinks himself entitled to a larger rent than has been hitherto paid.

In the case of a tenant circumstanced as the defendant is, who has no right of occupancy, the only limit to the landlord's power of enhancement would seem to be that the tenant, if he holds over after notice, will not be compelled to pay more than a fair and reasonable rent. The Act requires that the landlord should inform the tenant of the ground on which enhancement is sought, not only that the tenant may be enabled to judge of the reasonableness of the demand and of the prudence of complying with it or otherwise, but that he may be prepared to meet any case which may be made against him if the matter should be litigated.

I may observe that, if the notice fairly meets these requirements, I think it matters little that amongst the reasons assigned for claiming rent at the enhanced rate there are some which will not bear examination.

Again, if the notice is sufficient to enable the tenant to meet and contest the landlord's demand without the risk of being taken by surprise; if he contests the case in the original suit, and on regular appeal in the

Court below, without objection to the form of the notice, it appears to me to be too late to take the objection by way of special appeal.

To allow such objections—to dismiss a suit for enhanced rent because some technical objection can be taken to the form of the notice—would be to introduce into rent-suits the intolerable evils of the exploded system of special demurrers which were put an end to for ever in England by the Common Law Procedure Acts of 1852 and 1854.

I confess that I am unable to understand the case of Kaleenath Chowdhry *versus* Humee Bibee, 12 Weekly Reporter 506. It is clear, however, that the notice in that case was very different from that which we have now to consider.

In Buroda Kant Roy *versus* Radha Churn Roy, 13 Weekly Reporter 163, I understand from the language of the decision, though it is not clearly so stated, that the suit was not a suit *for enhanced rent* after service of notice, but a suit for a kubooleut, which is a very different matter. If the learned Judges meant to say that, when a person in possession of land without paying rent is served by the zemindar, under whom he has previously held, with notice that he must either quit the land or pay a reasonable rent for it, and after such notice chooses to remain in possession, coming to no settlement with the zemindar, he cannot be adjudged liable to pay rent at a reasonable rate on the footing of the notice, I say, with all respect for their opinion, that I cannot agree with them.

I think that in such a case the person remaining in possession must be taken to have assented to become tenant, and to have become liable to the payment of rent, as was held by Lord Wynford in the English case of Roberts *versus* Hayward, 3 Carrington and Payne 432. The obligation would arise out of the application of a well-known principle of law.

Thus, in the Roman Law it was held that an unwritten covenant was made either by the interposition of words or in some other way which signifies or pre-supposes the consent. The illustration given is: He that receives a deposit. though he do not speak, obliges himself to the engagements of depositaries.

Neither of the cases cited touches the point we have to consider in the present case.

We have only to say that in the case now before us the notice appears to be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of Section 13 of Act X. of 1859.

We, therefore, dismiss the appeal with costs.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 15th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Measurement—Section 10, Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862—Procedure—Jurisdiction.

Case No. 2482 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Mymensingh, dated the 30th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated 31st May 1870.

Mahomed Bahadoor Mojoomdar and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Rajah Raj Kishen Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellants.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee* and *Shoshee Bhoosun Sein* for Respondent.

An applicant under Section 10, Act VI. (B. C.) of 1862, must first prove what steps he has taken to obtain the knowledge of the tenures in his estate, and that he is unable to measure, because he is unable to ascertain them. If his averments are objected to, and the Collector proceeds without inquiry, the proceedings are invalid and without jurisdiction.

An applicant under the above Section must be the proprietor of the estate, and not a shareholder only in the proprietary body.

Jackson, J.—I do not agree with the Judge in the view he has taken of the law, Section 10, Act VI. of 1862, B. L. C. In the first place, I think it is most important that the applicant to the Collector under this Section should prove that he "cannot "ascertain who are the persons liable in

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ay rent in respect of the lands or any ortion of the lands comprised in his state, and that on that account he is able to measure the lands comprised in is estate." These are the words of the , and they show the state of facts upon ich alone there can be an application to Collector, and upon which alone the llector can assist the applicant. The dge admits that there was no inquiry de to ascertain whether any such state facts existed. One of the tenants of the ate who objected to the application apred, and alleged that there was no truth the averments made in the application, d that the applicant had long been in session, and could not be in ignorance of lands or tenures comprised in the estate, d that the application was only made to ass the tenants. But still no issue was d upon the point, and no inquiry made arding it. The result is that the Collec- had not jurisdiction to act in the matter, d that all the proceedings must be set e as invalid. It is worthy of remark some of the Clauses of the Section are al, and deprive the ryot of his tenure. is, therefore, the more important that no oceedings should be taken under this Sec- except in instances where the interence of the Collector is absolutely necesy, and in such exceptional circumstances are laid down in the Section. The appli- t must first prove what steps he has en to obtain the knowledge of the tenures his estate, and that he is unable to mea-, because he cannot ascertain them. applicant in this case makes general ertions, but does not state what steps he to ascertain the tenures, and how he ed.

I think also that the applicant under this tion must be "the proprietor of the te," not a shareholder only in the prietary body. It is not right that such reholders should have separate measureents. Such proceedings would be produc- of great annoyance and harassment to tenants in the estate. The law does not that any shareholder of an estate may ply to the Collector; and looking to the arkable provisions of this Section, it ns to me that it should not be extended ond its plain terms.

I would set aside the Judge's order, and miss the plaintiff's application with all sts.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 15th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Suit for rent—Limitation—Section 32, Act X., 1859.

Case No. 2531 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Backergunge, dated the 29th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 4th June 1870.

Bykunt Ram Roy (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Mussamut Shurfoonissa Begum and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Sreenath Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboos Rash Beharee Ghose and *Doorga Mohun Dass* for Respondents.

Under Section 32, Act X. of 1859, the rent of *any* portion of one year (1273) is recoverable at any time up to the last day of the third year (1276) after its close.

Glover, J.—THERE is no ground for this special appeal. The Judge has found as a fact upon the evidence that the rents were payable, as claimed by the plaintiff, in 10 yearly kists. It is contended that there is no evidence directly to that point, but that is a question which we cannot consider in special appeal. The Judge has found generally upon the whole evidence in the case.

The question of interest has been repeatedly held by this Court to be a matter of discretion with which this Court should not ordinarily interfere.

Another objection, not taken, however, in either of the Courts below, has been now taken, *viz.*, that according to the plaintiff's own statement, his claim as to the rent of 1273 is barred by limitation. But this is not so. Section 32, Act X. of 1859, allows a suit for recovery of rent to be instituted within three years from the last day of the year in which the arrear claimed shall have

become due. The rent of 1273, therefore, no matter for what portion of the year such rent was due, would be recoverable at any time up to the last day of the year 1276, and on this calculation the plaintiff is clearly in time.

The special appeal is dismissed with costs.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 16th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Sharer of undivided estate—Rent-suit by sharer —Section 108, Act VIII. of 1859—Section 4, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865.

Case No. 32 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 27th October 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Satkhirah, dated the 26th February 1870.

Dwarkanath Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Dhun Monee Chowdhrain and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Anund Chunder Ghossal for Appellant.

Baboo Tarucknath Dutt for Respondents.

A suit by a sharer in a joint undivided estate for money due to him on account of his share of the rent of an under-tenure situate in such undivided estate falls within the provisions of Section 108, Act X. of 1859.

Where the owner of an undivided estate lets his share to a tenant by giving a pottah and taking a kubooleut, a suit for the rent of such undivided share, treated as a separate and distinct under-tenure, may come under the provisions of Section 4, Act VIII. (B. C.) of 1865.

Norman, C. J.—The plaintiff sues for the declaration of his title and for confirmation of his possession in a half share of mouzah Ramnuggur, and for the reversal of the sale of that estate by the Collector under Act X. of 1859. He alleges that in Falgoon 1274, *i. e.*, February 1868, the former holders of the tenure sold it to him for 400 rupees; and that, after this the defendants, under a decree for a of rent, which they had obtained a the plaintiff's vendors in 1866, fraudu put up the tenure to sale, and purch for 11 rupees.

The first Court found that the sal fraudulent and illegal, declared that th to the defendants be invalid, and d that the plaintiff's title be confirmed. appeal, the Judge finds that the Re Court erroneously proceeded in the e tion-case under the Bengal Act VI 1865, and sold the tenure instead of s merely the right, title, and interest o judgment-debtors. He also finds th Revenue Court exceeded its power, and the sale must be held ineffectual to more than the right, title, and interest o judgment-debtors, "*that is to say, the i est of the plaintiff to whom it had pre ly passed.*" The learned Judge then a decree declaring that the defendants chased at the sale the one-half share o interest held by the plaintiff in the u tenure.

From that decision there has been a sp appeal, and it has been admitted on the of the respondent's vakeel that, if the is correct in saying that the sale passed the right, title, and interest of the judg debtors, such sale does not in any way the interest of the plaintiff who had acq his title by purchase from the judgment-d ors 6 months before the sale under A of 1859 under which the defendants acquired their supposed rights. But it been contended by the respondent's v that the decision of the Judge is capab being supported upon another gro namely, that the sale in the Collector's C really took place under the provisio Section 4, Act VIII. of 1865, B. C.

Now, in considering this question, it necessary to look carefully to the fact the case. The property of which the fendants, as zemindars, held an eight-an share was ijmalee. In 1225, the sepa proprietors of the several 8-annas share Ramnuggur executed separate pottahs, granting 8 annas of Ramnuggur to the pla iff's vendors at separate rents. The was then jungle, and the cultivated po of it was described in each of these pott as 151 beegahs. In pursuance of a pr sion contained in each of these pottahs, land was subsequently measured. The m surement took place in the year 1246, a

in that measurement jummabundees were wn up showing the total rental on ac- nt of 166 beegahs 15 cottahs and 4 dahs of land to be 44 rupees and 8 as, of which the share of the defendants the present case was 22 rupees and 4 as. There were three jummabundees; one ing the share in the entire rent payable e eight-annas shareholder, and the other each showing the sum of 11 rupees and nas as payable to each of the two other nas shareholders. The defendants sued got a decree in 1866 for rent on the ng of that jummabundee; and I think it mpossible to doubt that the decree for rent is rightly and correctly described decree given in favor of a sharer in a undivided estate for money due to him account of his share of the rent of an er-tenure situate in such undivided es- If that be so, the case falls within the visions of Section 103, Act X. of 1859, the learned Judge, Mr. Beaufort, was e right in saying that the sale took place er the provisions of that Section.

I have no doubt that the owner of an divided estate may, by giving a pottah taking a kubooleut, let his share of the perty to a tenant, and agree to receive from such tenant in respect of a tenure ch may consist of his undivided share; if that be the case, it may well be that uit for rent of such undivided share, ted as a separate and distinct under-te- e, may come under the provisions of tion 4 of the Bengal Act VIII. of 1865.

In the present case, it is clear that the h engagement under the jummabundees for an entire rent of which the shares e separately allotted, and in respect of h shares the parties entered into such arate engagements as to render them ble to suits for such separate shares of rent. I think, therefore, that, after that gagement evidenced by those jummabun- es, it cannot be said that the separate areholders in the undivided estate creat- several distinct and separate under- ures in respect of their undivided shares. e judgment-debtors, at the time of the sale der Section 108, had already sold every ng which they possessed in the tenure the now plaintiff, and therefore the de- dants (zemindars) by that remarkable rchase of property, which had recently tched 400 rupees, for 11 rupees, got no- ing. I cannot say that I regret that I am ble to reverse the decision of the Judge, and declare the plaintiff entitled to the declaration prayed for.

The plaintiff will get his costs in all the Courts.

Loch, J.—I concur.

The 17th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Hid treasure—Rights of finder—Section 8, Regulation V. of 1817.

Case No. 98 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Hooghly, dated the 29th December 1870.

Oma Churn Banerjee (Petitioner), *Appellant,*

versus

The Collector of Hooghly on behalf of Government (Opposite Party), *Respondent.*

Baboo Tarucknath Dutt for Appellant.

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for Respondent.

Under Section 8, Regulation V. of 1817, the finder of hidden treasure loses his right to the same, if he does not notify his discovery to the Zillah Judge within one month.

Any custom which there might have been in respect to the ownership of discovered treasure was done away with by the enactment of Regulation V. of 1817.

Glover, J.—The appellant in this case objected to the order passed by the Judge of Hooghly in respect of the ownership of certain treasure found in a field within the appellant's zemindaree. It appears that certain persons, in the course of digging a field within the appellant's estate, came upon an earthen pot containing some 348 rupees. There was a quarrel amongst themselves regarding the appropriation of the money, which the zemindar heard of, and so came in and took it on his own account. The zemindar claims this property, in the first place, alleging that he was the person who found it, inasmuch as it was found by his servants while carrying out his orders in digging a field.

If this be so, and if he be entitled to call himself the finder of this hidden treasure, it is quite clear that, under Section 8 of

Regulation V. of 1817, he has lost his right, inasmuch as he did not notify the fact of the money being found to the Zillah Judge within one month as required by the Regulation. He then states that, supposing that he is not entitled to claim as finder, he is entitled to get the money under the general custom of the country which gives property of this description to the owner of the estate in which it is found.

Now, in the first place, whatever custom there might have been at one time with regard to such matters was done away with by the enactment of Regulation V. of 1817, the preamble of which states expressly the reason why that law was enacted, namely, because of the doubt which had arisen as to the disposal of such property on account of the conflicting provisions of the Hindoo and Mahomedan Law; and even were we to suppose, for the sake of argument, that there was such a custom still existing, it is quite clear that the appellant could not be called, in the sense which he seeks, the owner of the soil, inasmuch as the ownership of the soil for such purposes would be the ruling power of the country, that is, the Government.

The appeal is dismissed with costs.

The 17th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Right of way—Purchaser.

Case No. 1835 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 26th May 1870, modifying a decision of the Additional Moonsiff of that District, dated the 31st December 1869.

Nubeen Chunder Bullub (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Bhoobun Chunder Mundul and another (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Kalee Mohun Doss and *Ashoto[illegible] Dhur* for Appellant.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Hem Chund[illegible] Banerjee* for Respondents.

The purchaser of a house acquires the right to use of a way to a road which had been enjoyed wi[illegible] house by the vendor, if it is not merely a right [illegible] way of necessity, but a particular right over a de[illegible] path.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is an appeal fro[illegible] decision of the Judge of the 24-Pergun[illegible] The plaintiff claims a right of way by a [illegible] row pathway leading from a house occu[illegible] by him along the front of four different ho[illegible] or portions of houses, belonging to the [illegible] fendant Bhoobun Mohun Mundul, no[illegible] wards to a public road. The evide[illegible] proves that the house, of a portion of w[illegible] the plaintiff has become possessed by [illegible] chase from Nobongo Dassee, the widow [illegible] Puran Chunder Mundul, was formerly [illegible] joyed by four shareholders, Bhoobun [illegible] hun, Bycunt Nath, Ryechurn, and Pu[illegible] Chunder, and that a partition took place—does not appear when, but probably a v[illegible] long time ago—between these four seve[illegible] brothers and co-sharers, by which the p[illegible] tion of the house on the south was allo[illegible] to Puran Chunder. Puran Chunder d[illegible] about 12 years ago, and it is in evide[illegible] that during the lifetime of Puran Chund[illegible] and subsequent to the partition, he enjoy[illegible] a right of way from the house now in [illegible] possession of the plaintiff from a point [illegible] the north-western extremity of that ho[illegible] running northwards to the public ro[illegible] It is also clear that a right of way over t[illegible] specific path was enjoyed by Puran Chund[illegible] in his lifetime, by his widow after his de[illegible] and by the plaintiff after his purchase for [illegible] period which, we have no doubt upon t[illegible] evidence, very considerably exceeds 12 yea[illegible] before the commencement of the suit. Th[illegible] result of that evidence is to establish th[illegible] the plaintiff, who is the purchaser of th[illegible] house in question from Nobongo Dassee, i[illegible] now entitled to a right of way over th[illegible] path in question to the public road. I[illegible] purchasing the house from Nobongo—assum[illegible] ing as we do for the purpose of the prese[illegible] argument that Nobongo had a right to se[illegible] the house—the plaintiff acquired the rig[illegible] to the use of the way which had been enjo[illegible] ed with the house by the person who so[illegible] to him,

The Judge appears to have taken a mis-ken view of the right of the plaintiff. He s: "I think that the plaintiff cannot sist on the re-opening of this particular e of way. All that he can claim is an sy and uninterrupted means of communi-tion between his house and the road. e can claim a right of way to the road, t not the particular line of way across e land of the defendant which he has therto used." If the right which was ted in the plaintiff was a mere right to t is called a way of necessity, the ge's view might have been correct, but the plaintiff in the present case estab-es by the evidence, not only of his own esses, but of those of the defendant, is specific property—a particular right of over a defined path. One of the defend-s own witnesses says that, in the latter of Puran's life, he never knew him to through the house now occupied by the ndant, or to use any other way except path in question.

everal objections have been taken on the of the respondent to the maintenance the present action. Now, we propose to sider one or two of the objections to the ntenance of the suit in detail. The t point which it is material to consider whether, the defendant having built over path in question, and obstructed the ntiff's right of way, the plaintiff has cluded himself by acquiescence from ing to the Court to ask for the removal he obstruction.

he defendant first obstructed the way the 31st Jyest 1276, and the plaintiff, on 9th Assar, that is, 9 days afterwards, tituted this suit in the Moonsiff's Court, ying for the removal of the obstruction. s clear, therefore, that the plaintiff in-tly resorted to the Court to ask for ef from the obstruction.

The next objection was that the plaintiff, praying for the removal of the obstruc-n in the road, is not acting in good faith. was contended that the plaintiff is not rely seeking to enforce his legal right, but doing so for the purpose of harassing and ing the defendant. But unfortunately the defendant it is in evidence that the endant, at the time when he commenced obstruction, heard that the plaintiff jected to it, upon which he threatened plaintiff, and said that "he would see how the plaintiff liked *eating* his own house," clearly showing that he meant to give the plaintiff, who is a comparatively poor man, a *taste* of the costs and expenses of litigation. We think after that it does not lie in the mouth of the defendant to complain that the plaintiff insists on his legal rights.

The next point is that, the suit having been instituted on the 9th Assar 1276, on the 18th Assar, that is 9 days afterwards, the plaintiff sold his property to one Koonj Behary Pâl for 600 rupees with a number of stipulations as to the payment of costs, which show pretty clearly that this suit, as now brought, is the suit of Koonj Behary Pâl, who has some grudge or other against the present defendant. One of these stipulations was that "if the plaintiff "is successful, Koonj Behary Pâl is to get "all the costs." Certainly, that is not an agreement which the Court ought to favor, and we should not be doing justice if we allowed Koonj Behary to reap any benefit from it. Therefore, we think that, while ordering the defendant to remove the obstruction and re-open the way which existed before the commencement of this suit within 6 weeks after the service on him of this decree, we ought not to give costs in this suit, but leave each party to bear his own costs.

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Estoppel—Res adjudicata.

Case No. 63 of 1871 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 27th October 1870, modifying a decision of the Deputy Collector of Diamond Harbour, dated the 31st March 1870.

Aukhil Chunder Mookerjee and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants*,

versus

Shib Narain Ghose (Defendant), *Respondent*.

Baboos Chunder Madhub Ghose and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for Appellants.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondent.

Such matters only as are decided between the parties by the decree in the suit ought to be treated as binding against them in subsequent litigation. No part of the reasoning on the findings of fact which have induced the Court to come to its decision is binding as between the parties further than for the purposes of the particular decision.

Norman, C. J.—This is a suit for the rents of certain lands within the plaintiff's zemindaree at an enhanced rate after notice, to which the defendant made answer that his tenure was not liable to enhancement, because the land had been held at a rent which had not been changed from the date of the permanent settlement.

The zemindaree is held in two shares, of one of which—the 7-annas share—the plaintiffs became the purchasers at a sale in 1861. The plaintiffs, in 1863, brought a suit against the present defendants, praying for a kubooleut at an enhanced rate of rent.

After a remand by this Court on special appeal from the decision of the Judge, the Deputy Collector of Diamond Harbour, Mr. Pratt, by a decision dated the 31st May 1865, *seems* to have held—for we cannot say that he distinctly and in direct terms decided—that the tenure was not protected from enhancement, because he thought that the evidence produced by the defendant as to uniform payment of rent for 20 years was suspicious and unsatisfactory. But he went on to try the issue as to whether the defendant was liable to enhancement, and ultimately he held that, on account of the then recent cyclone, the tenant could not afford to pay higher rent; and he therefore dismissed the suit.

The present suit was brought on the 8th July 1868. The Judge finds that the receipts of rent which have been produced by the defendant are genuine, and that certain *tokas* or accounts of collections made during the years 1265, 1267, and 1268, during which time the 7-annas share was in the possession of the 9-annas shareholder, are also genuine, and that these dakhilas and *tokas* prove that the rent was not varied for a period of something like 40 years. On these grounds, the Judge dismisses the suit, and declares the defendant's tenure is not liable to enhancement.

It is objected before us on special appe that the finding of the Deputy Collector his decision of May 1865 that the ten was not one protected from enhancem ought to have been treated by the Judge conclusive in the present suit.

The Judge says: "The judgment of "Deputy Collector of May 1865 was "final in regard to the issue of a fi "rental, because it did not rest on the Co "finding on that issue. It proceeded "other grounds; and, as the suit was "missed, the defendant had no opportu "of appealing or of contesting the poin "the Appellate Court, since the plaintiff d "not prefer an appeal."

We think that the Judge is right in ho ing that the finding of the Deputy Colle in 1865 was not a decision binding on defendant, or which can be treated as hav bound the defendant by way of estoppel otherwise in the present suit. It was op to the defendant, notwithstanding that fi ing, again to contest the question of the bility of his tenure to enhancement.

According to the English rule, the findi on an issue between the same parties in former suit is only conclusive by way estoppel in those cases where that which called the *judgment* in England, and wh is equivalent to what is called the *de* here, proceeds on the very point decided the verdict or finding of fact on the is A judgment is not conclusive as to any m ter which came collaterally in question (The Duchess of Kingston's case: Per William DeGrey, Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas, delivering the unanim opinion of the Judges in the House of Lo Smith's Leading Cases 424). Lord Ell borough, in Outram *versus* Moorwood, East 346, has rightly treated the questi as being whether the defendant was estopp by a *former verdict* and *judgment* on th same point in the action on trespass.

In Barrs *versus* Jackson (1 Yo. and Co. C., p. 585), Vice-Chancellor Knight Bru stated the rule against re-agitating matter a judicated to be subject to this restrictio that "however essential the establishment "particular facts may be to the soundne "of a judicial decision; however it m "proceed on them as established; and ho "ever binding and conclusive the decisi "may, as to its immediate and direct obje "be, those facts are not all necessar

ablished conclusively between the par-s, and either may again litigate them r any other purpose as to which they y come in question; provided the im-diate subject of the decision be not at-mpted to be withdrawn from its operation as to defeat its direct object."

hese decisions show that such matters as are decided between the parties by decree in the suit ought to be treated as ing against them in subsequent litiga-. No part of the reasoning on the find-of fact which have induced the Court to to its decision are binding as between parties further than for the purposes of particular decision.

Taylor on Evidence, Section 1528, pointed out that, if for any cause "no judgment of the Court has been pro-nced upon the matter in issue, the pro-ings are not conclusive."

ow, in the case before us, the final deci-of the Court, that is, the final decree of Collector, did not proceed on his decision, as it was, that the tenure was not lia-to enhancement. The decree was a de-dismissing the suit for a kubooleut at enhanced rate. The reason which im-iately induced the Collector to pronounce decision was the absence of proof that rate demanded was reasonable under all ircumstances. Incidentally, and not as a er on which his decision proceeded, the ector expressed an opinion—I can scarce-ut it any higher, but, assuming that he *ed* the matter, the Collector decided—he was not precluded from proceeding hance by any proof which the defend-was then able to give before him of the that he held from the time of the per-ent settlement at a fixed rate.

he special appellant has failed to estab-the soundness of the view of law which has put before the Court, and we see no on for disturbing the judgment of the ge on that point.

he other point urged before us is one ly of fact. The Judge, on the evidence, come to the conclusion that the tenure not liable to enhancement. Whether that sion is right or wrong, it is not open to tion on special appeal.

e dismiss this appeal with costs.

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Act XL. of 1858—Manager's powers.

Case No. 24 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of Sarun, dated the 1st November 1870.

Sheo Prosunno Chobey (Petitioner), *Appellant.*

versus

Gopal Surn (Opposite Party), *Respondent.*

Baboo Omurnath Bose for Appellant.

No one for Respondent.

Per Jackson, J.—Where a manager is appointed under Act XL. of 1858, the Civil Court has no authority to restrict or limit by description or otherwise the nature or extent of the minor's property.

Jackson, J.—In the order made by the Judge in this matter which the appellant complains of, the Judge appears to have gone beyond his strict authority.

Act XL. of 1858 empowers the Civil Court, under certain circumstances, to appoint managers to the property of minors. Those managers, when so appointed, are vested with authority to take and manage the property of minors, and are bound to do so to the best of their judgment and ability. The Court has no authority to restrict or limit by description or otherwise the nature or extent of the minor's property; and if any question should afterwards arise of the manager having improperly given up or mis-managed the property belonging to the minor, the order of the Judge made on this occasion will certainly be no protection to him. The Judge's order, therefore, in this respect, appears to be incorrect; but it does not appear that the appellant before us has any *locus standi* upon which he is entitled to come in and complain of the order. The appeal, therefore, so far as he is concerned, must be dismissed, but the Judge should consider the observations which I have made, and regulate himself accordingly.

Macpherson, J.—Without saying that the Judge's order is right, I agree in thinking that this appeal must be dismissed.

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Decree—Judgment—Execution.

Case No. 58 of 1871.

Special Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 8th December 1870, reversing an order of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 24th June 1870.

Mirza Mehdee Beg (Judgment-debtor, Objector), *Appellant,*

versus

Zellal Thakoor and others (Decree-holders), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

Where a decree of the Sudder Court was in general terms, *viz.*, "that the appeal be decreed with costs," though the judgment indicated a different intention:

HELD that the decree ought not to have been used to obtain execution for the whole of the claim, but restricted to that which it was the manifest intention of the Court to grant.

Jackson, J.—IT certainly does appear, as alleged by the special appellant, that the Judge has put an erroneous construction on the order of the late Sudder Court made in December 1860. The decree of that Court being in extremely vague and general terms, namely, "that the appeal be decreed with costs," resort should have been had to the judgment which accompanied it—in the first place, to the Oordoo judgment which was filed with the decree, and, if that did not clear up the matter, then to the original judgment itself in English, a copy of which could have been easily obtained. It appears clear enough, even from the Oordoo (at all events from the English) judgment, what relief the Sudder Court intended to give; and that was, that the plaintiff, having succeeded in obtaining a decree in respect of the share owned by one Meher Ali out of the property which he, the plaintiff, claimed, ought not to have been made to pay the costs of the defendants as to the whole of the property, but that he ought himself to have recovered a decree with costs as to the share of Meher Ali. It seems singular that a decree should have been made without specification of that share, and that the plaintiff should have been satisfied with such a decree; but certainly the plaintiff ought not to be allowed to make use of such a decree as he obtained, for the purpose of obtaining, as he appears to have obtained, execution in respect of the whole of his original claim, but ought to be restricted to that which alone it was the manifest intention of the Sudder Court to give him.

The order of the Judge, therefore, in so far as it allows the plaintiff to execute the decree for the entire two annas of the property in dispute, with costs, must be reversed, and he will pass a fresh order in accordance with the decree of the Sudder Court as explained.

Macpherson, J.—I am of the same opinion.

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Proceedings in execution.

Case No. 78 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Gya, dated the 23rd December 1870, affirming an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 7th May 1870.

Moonshee Syud Ameer Ali (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Saheb Singh (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee* for Respondent.

Where an applicant for execution did nothing beyo depositing tullubana, without indicating the mode which execution was to be obtained, his proceeding w held not to be a *bonâ-fide* proceeding keeping decree alive.

Jackson, J.—IT appears to us that tl order of the Judge in this case is support by the Full Bench Ruling* to which

* 10 W. R., F. B., p. 8.

refers. The Judge finds, and apparently he had ground for finding, that, in point of fact, there had been no proceeding taken by the judgment-creditor to enforce his decree within three years next before the 8th June 1864; and, in point of fact, the order of the Court executing the decree, dated in November 1861, may be taken as affording some evidence, coupled with the previous order which the Court had made, that the decree-holder, in fact, was not taking the proceedings that he might and ought to have taken if he intended to execute his decree.

It seems that, having applied generally for execution, he was desired to put in a list of the property of the judgment-debtor, which he desired to attach, but he never put in any such list; in short, never went beyond merely depositing tullubana for the service of notice.

The case of the Maharajah of Burdwan, which is to be found in 14 Weekly Reporter, page 21, Privy Council Rulings, is quite distinguishable from the present case. In the Burdwan case, the Court executing the decree, it appears, had before it a substantial application on the part of the decree-holder for the arrest of the representative of the original debtor, and the question arose whether such representative, being a lady of rank, was liable to be taken in execution or not. The Court finally decided that she was not so liable, and the Privy Council, in disposing of that question, remarked that, up to the time when that order was passed, there was a proceeding to keep in force the judgment, decree, or order originally made, and that that proceeding was pending "every day of the time and every hour of everyday" until it was disposed of by the order above referred to.

In this case, however, there was no proceeding of that sort pending, because all that the execution-creditor had done was to ask for execution without indicating the mode in which execution was to be obtained. The Court called upon him to supply that omission by filing a list of the property to be attached, which, however, he never did. Finally, the Court, on his continued omission, ordered the case to be struck off. We think, therefore, that the Judge was justified in holding that the plaintiff was barred, and that this appeal ought to be dismissed with costs.

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Priestly ministrations—Sharer's rights—Right of action.

Case No. 155 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Patna, dated the 10th May 1870.

Mugjoo Paudaen (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Dyal Tewaree and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Appellant.

Mr. M. L. Sandel for Respondents.

A suit will lie against priests for a certain share of their earnings, if brought on the ground of partnership or of contract, express or implied; but in the absence of such partnership or contract, such a suit will not lie even against a priest newly appointed by the jujman, simply on the ground of hereditary right to perform the ceremonies of a particular family, such right being not enforceable at law.

A party seeking to establish his right to share in the ministrations of officiating priests is entitled to bring a civil suit to have his rights ascertained and declared, if based partly on kobalas which are contested, and partly on the right of succession.

Mookerjee, J.—The object of this suit is two-fold. The plaintiffs seek, in the first instance, to establish their right to share in the ministrations on the river bank at Patna from the ghaut of Maharajah Ram Narain Singh to the garden of Jafer Khan by purchase from Ram Dyal and others under 4 kobalas, dated respectively 11th November 1857, 15th January 1859, 15th August 1863, and 2nd October 1866, plaintiffs being members of the same family with defendants. *Secondly*, the plaintiffs pray that a sum of 75 rupees 9 annas be awarded to them, being a moiety of Rupees 151-2 annas received by the defendants on the occasion of the shradh of one Kaloo Misser, as by virtue of the aforesaid kobalas they are entitled to a half share of all offerings received by the defendants at the above ghaut. The plaintiffs allege that, having sued the defendants in the Court of Small Causes for the recovery of this amount, the defendants raised the false plea that the

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Decree—Judgment—Execution.

Case No. 58 of 1871.

Special Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 8th December 1870, reversing an order of the Sudder Moonsiff of that District, dated the 24th June 1870.

Mirza Mehdee Beg (Judgment-debtor, Objector), *Appellant,*

versus

Zellal Thakoor and others (Decree-holders), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

Where a decree of the Sudder Court was in general terms, *viz.*, "that the appeal be decreed with costs," though the judgment indicated a different intention:

HELD that the decree ought not to have been used to obtain execution for the whole of the claim, but restricted to that which it was the manifest intention of the Court to grant.

Jackson, J.—IT certainly does appear, as alleged by the special appellant, that the Judge has put an erroneous construction on the order of the late Sudder Court made in December 1860. The decree of that Court being in extremely vague and general terms, namely, "that the appeal be decreed with costs," resort should have been had to the judgment which accompanied it—in the first place, to the Oordoo judgment which was filed with the decree, and, if that did not clear up the matter, then to the original judgment itself in English, a copy of which could have been easily obtained. It appears clear enough, even from the Oordoo (at all events from the English) judgment, what relief the Sudder Court intended to give; and that was, that the plaintiff, having succeeded in obtaining a decree in respect of the share owned by one Meher Ali out of the property which he, the plaintiff, claimed, ought not to have been made to pay the costs of the defendants as to the whole of the property, but that he ought himself to have recovered a decree with costs as to the share of Meher Ali. It seems singular that a decree should have been made without specification of that share, and that the plaintiff should have been satisfied with such a decree; but certainly the plaintiff ought not to be allowed to make use of such decree as he obtained, for the purpose of obtaining, as he appears to have obtained, execution in respect of the whole of his original claim, but ought to be restricted to that which alone it was the manifest intention of the Sudder Court to give him.

The order of the Judge, therefore, in so far as it allows the plaintiff to execute the decree for the entire two annas of the property in dispute, with costs, must be reversed, and he will pass a fresh order in accordance with the decree of the Sudder Court as explained.

Macpherson, J.—I am of the same opinion.

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Proceedings in execution.

Case No. 78 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Gya, dated the 23rd December 1870, affirming an order of the Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 7th May 1870.

Moonshee Syud Ameer Ali (Decree-holder), *Appellant,*

versus

Saheb Singh (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee* for Respondent.

Where an applicant for execution did nothing beyond depositing tullubana, without indicating the mode in which execution was to be obtained, his proceeding was held not to be a *bond-fide* proceeding keeping the decree alive.

Jackson, J.—IT appears to us that the order of the Judge in this case is supported by the Full Bench Ruling* to which he

* 10 W. R., F. B., p. 8.

fers. The Judge finds, and apparently had ground for finding, that, in point fact, there had been no proceeding taken the judgment-creditor to enforce his cree within three years next before the June 1864; and, in point of fact, the er of the Court executing the decree, ed in November 1861, may be taken as rding some evidence, coupled with the vious order which the Court had made, t the decree-holder, in fact, was not taking proceedings that he might and ought have taken if he intended to execute decree.

It seems that, having applied generally execution, he was desired to put in a of the property of the judgment-debtor, ich he desired to attach, but he never t in any such list; in short, never went yond merely depositing tullubana for the vice of notice.

The case of the Maharajah of Burdwan, ich is to be found in 14 Weekly Report-, page 21, Privy Council Rulings, is ite distinguishable from the present case. the Burdwan case, the Court executing e decree, it appears, had before it a sub-ntial application on the part of the decree-lder for the arrest of the representative the original debtor, and the question ose whether such representative, being lady of rank, was liable to be taken in ecution or not. The Court finally deci-d that she was not so liable, and the ivy Council, in disposing of that question, marked that, up to the time when that der was passed, there was a proceeding keep in force the judgment, decree, or der originally made, and that that proceed-g was pending "every day of the time d every hour of everyday" until it s disposed of by the order above referred

In this case, however, there was no pro-eding of that sort pending, because all t the execution-creditor had done was ask for execution without indicating the ode in which execution was to be obtained. e Court called upon him to supply that ission by filing a list of the property to attached, which, however, he never did. nally, the Court, on his continued omis-on, ordered the case to be struck off. We nk, therefore, that the Judge was justi-d in holding that the plaintiff was barred, d that this appeal ought to be dismissed th costs.

The 18th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Priestly ministrations—Sharer's rights—Right of action.

Case No. 155 of 1870.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Patna, dated the 10th May 1870.

Mugjoo Paudaen (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Ram Dyal Tewaree and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboos Mohesh Chunder Chowdhry and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Appellant.

Mr. M. L. Sandel for Respondents.

A suit will lie against priests for a certain share of their earnings, if brought on the ground of partnership or of contract, express or implied; but in the absence of such partnership or contract, such a suit will not lie even against a priest newly appointed by the jujman, simply on the ground of hereditary right to perform the ceremonies of a particular family, such right being not enforceable at law.

A party seeking to establish his right to share in the ministrations of officiating priests is entitled to bring a civil suit to have his rights ascertained and declared, if based partly on kobalas which are contested, and partly on the right of succession.

Mookerjee, J.—THE object of this suit is two-fold. The plaintiffs seek, in the first instance, to establish their right to share in the ministrations on the river bank at Patna from the ghaut of Maharajah Ram Narain Singh to the garden of Jafer Khan by purchase from Ram Dyal and others under 4 kobalas, dated respectively 11th November 1857, 15th January 1859, 15th August 1863, and 2nd October 1866, plaintiffs being members of the same family with defendants. *Secondly*, the plaintiffs pray that a sum of 75 rupees 9 annas be awarded to them, being a moiety of Rupees 151-2 annas received by the defendants on the occasion of the shradh of one Kaloo Misser, as by virtue of the aforesaid kobalas they are entitled to a half share of all offerings received by the defendants at the above ghaut. The plaintiffs allege that, having sued the defendants in the Court of Small Causes for the recovery of this amount, the defendants raised the false plea that the

kobalas were not *bonâ-fide* documents executed on receipt of any consideration, but were mere paper-transactions executed benamee in the name of the plaintiffs for a certain purpose. It is then alleged that, in consequence of this plea, the Court of Small Causes refused to entertain the suit, but dismissed it as involving questions of title which that Court had no jurisdiction to try, referring plaintiffs to the ordinary Civil Court for redress.

The plaintiffs have consequently instituted this suit for an adjudication of their right on the ground that they have actually and *bonâ fide* purchased from the defendants their share of the offerings, and have paid full and good consideration for the same. The plaint is not very full and explicit, but there appears to be no doubt whatever that one of the objects of this suit is to have a declaration from the Court that the purchases are not nominal, but *bonâ fide*. I am of opinion that it is quite competent to a Civil Court to entertain a suit of this nature. The simple question to be determined in such a case is the question which the Subordinate Judge has laid down for decision in the 1st issue* of fact in page 13 of the printed book.

The other prayer contained in the plaint is also, I think, a matter cognizable by the Civil Court, though it may be also cognizable by the Court of Small Causes. The plaintiffs allege that, although the defendants have sold to them a moiety of their right to share in the ministrations at a particular place of the river bank, the defendants have taken the whole of the offerings, and would not give to the plaintiffs their legitimate and proper share of them which they had expressly covenanted and agreed, for a valuable consideration, to give to them by the several kobalas executed by the defendants in plaintiff's favor. This would be a matter of simple contract, and the only material points that would arise for determination would be whether, by the terms of the deed, the defendants have agreed to allow the plaintiffs to share in the profits arising from the ministrations in the ghaut, and whether the defendant having obtained articles of a certain value on account of these ministrations have refused to give plaintiffs their share of those articles.

* [This issue was to the following effect: Whether the purchase of the alleged share of the birt by plaintiffs and their ancestors was *bonâ fide*, or fraudulent, the purchase having been made without consideration, and whether plaintiffs and their ancestors have had possession of it since the time of their purchaser.]

I think the Subordinate Judge was wrong in holding that, "if the plaintiff's alleged "right on *persons* be recognized on ground "of her being a hereditary priestess, it will "be improperly interfering with the liberty "of men who have an interest and inalienable right to choose their own priests for "performance of ceremonies which the Hindu law which governs their case prescribes." This is not a suit by a priest to enforce any right as against jujmans, but is one for a share of the fees obtained by the members of a family of purohits, one of whom had transferred his share to the plaintiff for a valuable consideration, the plaintiff being also a member of that family.

Suppose A was a purohit of a family, and was in receipt of all the fees paid by that family on occasions of religious ceremonies. Suppose A died leaving 2 sons, one a major and another a minor, and the jujmans, being still anxious to employ the descendants of their late priest, call in the adult member to officiate at the ceremonies in their family because he was a son of their priest, and with a view that the members of the family of their late priest be supported by the fees given on such occasions to the officiating priest, showing no inclination to prefer the one member to the exclusion of the other. I apprehend that, under such circumstances, the minor son of A will be entitled to share with his brother the offerings received by him at these ministrations. This will not be interfering with the liberty of the jujmans to employ whomsoever they like, but will be furthering the object the jujmans had in view.

In the present case, if Ram Dyal had, as a matter of contract, agreed and stipulated to share with the plaintiffs the fees that would be received by him from persons who have to perform certain ceremonies at a particular place, he would, I think, be bound to fulfil his part of the contract, and give the plaintiff the share he has covenanted to give for a valuable consideration, supposing the first issue is decided in plaintiff's favor. The decisions in 5 Weekly Reporter, page 222; 10 Weekly Reporter, page 114; S. D. for 1852, page 405; S. D. for 1855, page 2; and S. D., 1857, page 362, are in point, and show that a suit brought against a defendant on the ground of inheritance or contract will lie in the Civil Court, though it be for fees paid by a jujman to the defendant as the officiating priest. I wish it to be clearly

derstood that I perfectly agree with the cisions quoted by the respondent's pleader t a suit will not lie against the jujman fees paid by him to the officiating priest er on the ground of hereditary right of esthood or of any contract entered into the plaintiff by the priest who offi- ed. The right of a purohit to officiate at ceremonies of a family because his estors had performed the ceremonies ore has been justly held to be a right enforceable at law. No one can compel ther to employ him as a purohit against will, and a Court of justice has no power enforce its order against the conscience the party. But I hold that a suit will against priests if the suit is brought "on e ground that a partnership existed tween the defendants and himself laintiff), or that they are bound by a ntract, express or implied, to give m (plaintiff) a certain share of their rnings." Where there is no such nership or no such contract, a suit will lie even against a priest who has been but ly appointed by the jujman, by any mber of the family of the old priest simply the ground of a hereditary right to per- m ceremonies of a particular family, because fees paid by a jujman to the priest officiates at ceremonies performed by are, according to the custom prevail- in Hindu families, and also according he Hindu law, voluntary gifts paid for k actually done or for the sake of ritual benefit supposed to flow to the or when his gifts are accepted by pious holy Brahmins. These gifts can never inarily be subject to partition either by Hindu law or any other system of .

s regards the claim of the plaintiff inst the other members of the family of vendors who are no parties to the con- ct, and who are under no obligation to re with the plaintiffs, the rule laid n in the decision of 1857 seems to me be the proper rule which the Subordi- e Judge ought to follow. In page 366, . Trevor says that "it appears to me at, if a jujman or a party, in the exer- se of the liberty allowed to him, pays sum as fees to an *individual*, so as to ow that they were intended for the *dividual*, no claim can be preferred by hers, though they may be joint heirs the family-purohitship to the property o received; but that, if the fees be paid "to a person only as a member of the "collective body of which he is an unit, "the claim is admissible, and should be "decided in accordance to the rules by "which ordinary cases of inheritance are "decided."

In the present case, if the Subordinate Judge finds that the fees paid at Kaloo Misser's shradh had been paid by the heirs of Kaloo Misser to the collective body of priests, plaintiff would be entitled to share in the offerings in proportion to his share in the rights of that collective body; but if, on the other hand, it is proved that the party who made the gift gave it only to one member of the family for services done by him for his *individual* benefit, the plaintiff will not be able to recover from him any portion of the fees so paid.

The case must go back to the Subordinate Judge for trial on the merits.

Macpherson, J.—I agree in thinking that this suit will lie so far as it seeks to establish as against the defendants the right of the plaintiff to share in the ministrations at the ghat in question. But the persons who use the ghat will not be affected by any decree which may be made in this suit. The decree can affect those only who are defendants, and contest with the plaintiff the right to share in the performance of ceremonies and receipt of fees. There can be no decree directing any person or class of persons to employ the plaintiff or to pay fees to her.

I do not think that the proceedings in the Small Cause Court are any bar to the present suit, even so far as it seeks to recover the 75 rupees which are claimed as the plaintiff's share of fees actually received. The matters in dispute between the parties might doubtless have been inquired into and decided in the Small Cause Court in the suit for the 75 rupees. They were not, however, in fact inquired into or decided. The total value of the right which the plaintiff claims and now seeks to establish is quite beyond the jurisdiction of the Small Cause Court; and, under the circumstances, it appears to me that the plaintiff is entitled to bring this suit to have her rights ascertained and declared, based, as they are, partly on the kobalas which are contested, and partly on the right of succession.

The case is remanded. The Lower Court must go fully into the merits, and must decide whether, under the kobalas on which

she relies, the plaintiff has any (and if any, what) right to share in the ministrations at this ghat as against the defendants, or as against any (and which in particular) of them.

If the Court shall be of opinion that the plaintiff has the right, the issue as to the 75 rupees must then be gone into and decided.

The costs of this appeal will follow the result of the remand.

The 19th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Necessitous debtor—Attachment—Small Cause Court—High Court.

Reference to the High Court by the Small Cause Court for the Suburbs of Calcutta including Howrah, dated the 22nd March 1871.

A. Harris, *Judgment-creditor,*

versus

R. Britain, *Judgment-debtor.*

The High Court is not authorized by law to interfere for the relief of a necessitous judgment-debtor, whose salary has been attached in execution of a decree of a Small Cause Court.

Case.—THE judgment-debtor in this case, an ex-employé of the Eastern Bengal Railway Company, whose salary was attached under mesne-process, moves the Court to obtain a small sum from the money attached for his subsistence; otherwise he will have to seek refuge in the alms-house. The Court considers the judgment-debtor to be in distressed circumstances, and is disposed to make a small allowance out of the money attached, but is in doubt whether it has the power to do so. The Insolvent Court in Calcutta generally allows a debtor seeking relief a portion of his salary for subsistence, and the analogy between the two cases appears sufficient to warrant a Small Cause Court to relieve a necessitous judgment-debtor. As there is no law or precedent bearing on the subject, I have the honor to solicit the favor of your laying before the Hon'ble the High Court for their opinion the following point:—

Whether, after attachment of a judgme debtor's salary, a Small Cause Court c allow him out of the money held in attac ment a small sum for subsistence.

The judgment of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

Loch, J.—We think that this Court c not interfere in this matter. The anal attempted to be drawn between the Sm Cause Court and the Insolvent Court d not hold in any way.

The Judge, when decreeing the case, m have ordered the money to be paid instalments, and the defendant tells us t the Judge was applied to to make the dec in this form, but the application was refu

That being so, we know of no law whi enables us to interfere in the matter, a we accordingly decline to interfere. T Small Cause Court Judge will be inform of this.

The 19th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glov *Judges.*

Corporate bodies—Agents—Form of actio Sections 73 and 350, Civil Procedure Co

Case No. 148 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision passed the Second Subordinate Judge of Hoogl dated the 29th November 1870, revers a decision of the Moonsiff of Sulk dated the 15th August 1870.

Nubeen Chunder Paul (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mr. Cecil Stephenson, Agent of the E India Railway Company (Defendan *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Ba Churn Banerjee* for Appellant.

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for Respondent.

Where a corporate body, *e. g.*, the East India Railw Company, is sued, not in its corporate capacity, b through an agent, the suit is brought in a wrong form

d

s, in such a case, the corporate body is not likely affected by the result of the suit, a Court is justi- in refusing an application to make such corporate y a party in the suit under Section 73, Act VIII., 1859. here a decree makes a party liable who is not liable g., an agent instead of the corporate body whose t he is), the error is one affecting the merits within meaning of Section 350, Civil Procedure Code.

Kemp, J.—THIS suit was instituted by plaintiff, special appellant, to recover sum of 995 rupees 8 annas 10 pie, being amount of a claim which he had for a in quantity of bricks, which he alleges prepared for the East India Railway mpany. In the plaint, he states that the rict Engineer of Burdwan, Mr. Phillips, e an order that, on the 13th of November 6, Mr. Elam, an Inspector, gave a further al order to the plaintiff, to prepare 10 s of bricks. It is not necessary now nter into the conditions of the contract ween the parties. It will suffice to say the plaintiff alleges that he acted up his part of the contract, and that he ap- ed first to Mr. Palmer for redress; that gentleman referred him to the district- thorities; and that, obtaining no satisfac- n from them, he brings the present suit.

The suit is brought against Mr. Cecil phenson as agent of the East India lway Company.

The suit was defended by Mr. Stephenson, the first Court, after a local inquiry ed a decree in favor of the plaintiff, not inst the East India Railway Company, against Mr. Stephenson in his capacity gent of that Company.

On appeal before the Subordinate Judge Hooghly, a question was raised whether it against the East India Railway Com- y would lie in the present form, and a ision of the late learned Chief Justice Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitter was d.* The Subordinate Judge, with refer- e to that decision, held that the suit had been brought against the East India lway Company. He, therefore, dismiss- the plaintiff's suit, and reversed the de- on of the first Court.

In special appeal, it is contended, 1st—t as no objection was taken in the first rt that the agent did not represent the lway Company itself, the Lower Ap- late Court was wrong in allowing that ection to be taken at a late stage of the e, and reversing the judgment of the Court contrary to the provisions of tion 350 of the Code of Civil Procedure; 2nd—that the ruling of the High Court relied upon by the Subordinate Judge does not apply to the circumstances of the present case, inasmuch as the High Court dismissed the appeal, and did not use a technical objection to reverse the judgment of the Court below; 3rd—that at any rate, the Lower Appellate Court ought to have allowed the special appellant to make the East India Railway Company a party to the suit under Section 73, Act VIII. of 1859, instead of dismissing it and making the plaintiff pay the costs of the other party.

With reference to the first point, we find that Section 350 lays down that "the judg- "ment may be for confirming or reversing "or modifying the decree of the Lower "Court. But that no decree shall be reversed "or modified, nor shall any case be remand- "ed to the Lower Court, on account of any "error, defect, or irregularity either in the "decision or in any interlocutory order "passed in the suit not affecting the merits "of the case or the jurisdiction of the "Court." Now, in this case, the decree of the Lower Court is one which makes a party liable who is clearly not liable, and therefore there is an error in the decision which affects the substantial merits of the case.

As the decision at present stands of the first Court, the plaintiff has obtained a decree against Mr. Stephenson in his capacity of agent to the East India Railway Company in a suit in which he has sued the wrong party, and in which he ought to have sued the East India Railway Company as a corporate body.

With reference to the second ground taken in special appeal, it is very clear to us that the decision reported in Volume X. does apply to the case before us. In that decision it is laid down that "it is a clear rule "of law that a corporation must sue and be "sued in its corporate name, and Section "26 of Act VIII. of 1859 points out how a "corporation is to be described in the plaint." Now, in this case, it is not disputed that the East India Railway Company are a corporate body. It has not been shown that they are authorized to sue or be sued in the name of an officer or trustee, and therefore the plaintiff having sued the East India Railway Company, not in their corporate capacity, but through an agent, namely, Mr. Stephenson, have brought their suit in a wrong form.

Then it is said that, under Section 73, the Lower Appellate Court ought to have

* 10 W. R., p. 336.

directed that the East India Railway Company be made a party to the suit. That Section appears to us to refer to parties who may be likely to be affected by the result of the suit or who may claim some share or interest in the suit. Now, it cannot be said that the East India Railway Company were likely to be affected by the result of this suit, inasmuch as they were never sued at all. Moreover, not being sued in their corporate capacity, and not being before the Court, they were in no way persons entitled to, or claiming some share or interest in, the subject-matter of the suit, nor could they be affected by any decree which might be passed against Stephenson; and further, under Section 73, it is not imperative on the Court to admit parties to a record. It is in the discretion of the Court to do so or not, and we think that the Subordinate Judge, even if he had been applied to under that Section, and it does not appear that he was, would not have been wrong in saying that, inasmuch as the East India Railway Company had not been sued, and are not likely to be affected by the result of a decree against Stephenson, it was unnecessary to make them parties to the suit.

The plaintiff must seek his remedy against the proper party and in a proper form. The present suit has been properly dismissed, and the decision of the Subordinate Judge must be confirmed with costs of all the Courts payable by the plaintiff.

The 19th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Special appeal—Right of action.

Cases Nos. 53 and 54 of 1871.

Special Appeals from a decision passed by the Judge of Cuttack, dated the 12th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Balasore, dated the 31st May 1870.

Doorga Pershad Mohapattur (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Radha Mohun Mytee and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Appellant.

Baboos Woomesh Chunder Banerjee an *Obhoy Churn Bose* for Respondents.

Where a Hindoo widow, jointly with her sons, for confirmation of title, and both the Courts b found adversely to her title to hold the land in di as separate property, it was held that her sons, wh no interest in the result of the suit, were not comp without her, to prefer a special appeal.

Glover, J.—A PRELIMINARY objection been taken by the pleader for the spe respondent in this case.

The facts are as follow: The plai one Rungoma, the daughter of Amroop Chandrama, and her sons Doorga Per and others, sued for confirmation of t possession in a certain portion of which they said had been held by Ch rama for the last 50 years in her own parate possession, and which passed by from Chandrama to her daughter Rungo The cause of action is alleged to be the fendant taking away the crops which grown on these lands, and the dismissal petition preferred to the Magistrate with ference to this act. The dismissal of petition is said to have cast a slur on plaintiff's title, and they now sue for firmation of it. The preliminary object taken is that, as both the Courts below h found adversely to Rungoma's title, hold that the property was acquired by the j family, and was not separate property, as Rungoma has not preferred any spe appeal, her sons, who have no interest the result of this suit, are not competen prefer an appeal.

It is, we may say, admitted by the ple for the special appellant that this object is fatal to the preferring of a special app by the sons. There is no doubt that, as case stands, Rungoma is the only per who claims to hold this property, and her sons, even supposing that a decree been given to Rungoma, can, as long as lives, have no right or title to the prope Rungoma has not joined in this spe appeal. The preliminary objection is the fore good, and this special appeal must dismissed with costs. At the same ti and considering that the omission of Ru goma's name from the list of special app lants has probably been brought about some mistake, inasmuch as she was join carrying on the suit with her sons from to last in the Courts below, we give special appellant's pleader permission to pear again before us by way of motion

er to the making of an order for the ex-
sion of the time allowed to prefer a
cial appeal in favor of Mussamut Rungo-

his appeal will be dismissed with costs.

The 20th May 1871.

Present :

Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover,
Judges.

erajdars—Right of suit—Section 15, Regulation VII. of 1822.

Case No. 167 of 1871.

ial Appeal from a decision passed by e Subordinate Judge of West Burdwan, dated the 29th November 1870, rming a decision of the Moonsiff of ishenpore, dated the 15th July 1870.

oroop Hazrah and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

umonutee Debia (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Appellants.

oos Khetter Mohun Mookerjee and *Molee Lall Mookerjee* for Respondent.

kherajdars whose land have been resumed have the under Section 15, Regulation VII. of 1822 (if not d by limitation), to bring a civil suit to revise, l, or alter a settlement made by the Collector, not as against those who claimed the settlement before Revenue Authorities, but against all who have n.

Glover, J.—This was a suit to annul a lement of 60 beegahs of land in mouzah ureebaree made by the Collector with the endant on the 25th May 1867.

The plaintiff claims to be the lessee (under a putnee) of the original lakherajdars with whom, on resumption, a settlement was made by the Revenue Authorities. His case is that, after the settlement was made with his lessors (who were three purdanusheen ladies), the defendant fraudulently colluded with their Mookhtear, and induced the Deputy Collector to give him a settlement of 60 beegahs of what had already been settled with the ex-maliks, on a false sunnud, alleged to have been granted by them. In consequence of this collusion, no notice of the defendant's claim was given to the settlement-holders, and they did not appear before the Deputy Collector to object. That officer treated their absence as an acquiescence, and gave the defendant a settlement of 60 beegahs of land, which were included in the settlement already made with the lakherajdars. The plaintiff asks to have this settlement annulled on the ground that the sunnud on which it was granted was spurious, and that his lessors never acquiesced in the settlement with the defendant, no notice of the same having been given to them.

The defendant contended that the plaintiff had no right to bring the suit, inasmuch as the settlement had been made with the knowledge and consent of his lessors. He also pleaded limitation.

Both Courts gave the plaintiff a decree.

The only point that has been argued in special appeal is that, as the plaintiff's lessors refused to take the settlement, the title given by them after the date of the settlement with the defendants is worthless, and the plaintiff is not entitled to sue.

This objection, we may observe, was never taken in any stage of the case in the Courts below. The defendant's plea was that the lakherajdars, although having notice acquiesced in his claim to the settlement, no question was raised as to the date of the plaintiff's putnee lease, and opportunity was given him of showing when it was given.

Now, with regard to the notice, it has been found as a fact by the Court below that there was collusion between the defendant and the lakherajdar's Mookhtear, and that the ex-maliks were not aware of the defendant's claim. These parties were, it must be remembered, Hindoo ladies, being purdanusheen, and entirely in the hands of their

agents so far as notice of the defendant's application went, and it is in the highest degree improbable that, immediately after getting a settlement with Government at half rates for the whole mehal, they would willingly give up no less than 60 beegahs of it to a stranger. The concurrent finding of both Courts below, that the defendant's sunnud which he alleged himself to have received from the maliks was false, is strong corroboration of the antecedent improbability, and leaves no doubt in our minds that the finding of the Subordinate Judge as to the defendant's collusion with the Mookhtear was a perfectly sound one. But if proof of collusion were wanting, there seems no reason why the plaintiff should be prevented from bringing this suit. He has all the rights that the old lakherajdars had; and under Section 15, Regulation VII. of 1822, they could undoubtedly have brought a civil suit to "revise, annul, or alter" the settlement made by the Collector, supposing them not to be barred by limitation. The words "other claimants" in the Section do not, we consider, refer only to those who claimed the settlement before the Revenue Authorities, but to all who had claims.

If, therefore, the finding as to fraud were got over, the lakherajdars would still have been able to bring a civil suit for the settlement; and if they could do so, then the plaintiff, their lessee, could do so, for, as we remarked above, no question was raised in the Courts below as to the date or genuineness of his putnee lease.

There was an objection taken at the close of the argument that in any case the plaintiff ought not to be allowed possession, but only a declaratory decree.

The objection is not very intelligible, but we have no doubt that on the facts found the plaintiff is entitled to deprive the defendant of all the advantage he got by his fraudulent conduct. It has been found by both Lower Courts that he has no honest defence to this action, that he got the settlement by keeping the knowledge of his application secret from those who had an interest in opposing him, and by supporting his claim with a forged document. He ought most certainly to lose a possession so dishonestly acquired.

We see no reason to interfere with the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and we dismiss this special appeal with costs.

The 22nd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble E. Jackson, *Judge*.

Execution against surety—Interlocutory appeal—Sections 204 and 339, Act VIII. of 1859—Bond—Liability.

Case No. 11 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Recorder of Moulmein, dated the 26th October 1870.

Akhoot Ramanah and another (Decree-holders), *Appellants*,

versus

Ahmed Eusoofjee (Judgment-debtor) and another (Surety), *Respondents*.

Mr. A. F. Lingham and *Baboo Issur Chunder Chuckerbutty* for Appellants.

Mr. J. W. Lowe for the Surety, Respondent.

E having applied for execution of a decree, the judgment-debtors (*R* and *K*) paid the amount due into Court, praying that it might be retained pending an appeal to the High Court. The money was ordered to be retained till further orders, after which plaintiff was allowed to take it out on giving security, the surety depositing title-deeds and binding himself in an obligation for a sum equal to the money drawn out, to pay any sums decreed against his principal in the event of the appeal proving successful. The appeal, though at first dismissed for default, was re-admitted and decreed, plaintiff's suit being dismissed with costs. Meantime, on production by the surety of a certificate (without notice to appellant) that the appeal had been dismissed, the grant was returned and the bond cancelled. After the appeal was decreed, the appellant applied to the Recorder for an order calling on the surety to pay the amount originally deposited and that subsequently decreed. The Recorder dismissed the case as against the surety.

HELD that, under Section 204 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the decree of the Appellate Court might be executed against the surety, and that the Recorder's order dismissing the case against the surety was open to appeal.

HELD that the Recorder's order discharging the surety and cancelling the bond was erroneous and invalid.

HELD that, in the absence of an application under Section 339, Code of Civil Procedure, or of anything to show whether or not the surety bound himself beyond the penal sum of the bond, that sum only could be required from him.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is an appeal from the decision of the Recorder of Moulmein.

The material facts are as follow:—

Ahmed Eusoofjee, having obtained a decree against Akhoot Ramanah and Ramkurinjee in the Court of the Recorder of Moulmein, applied for execution, on which the defendants paid into Court the amount of the decree and costs, *viz.*, Rupees 4,825-3.

The defendants prayed that the money might be retained in Court pending an appeal to the High Court.

The Recorder made an order that the money be retained in Court till the further order of the Court.

The appeal to the High Court was filed on the 7th of May.

The plaintiff applied to the Recorder for liberty to take the money out of Court, which was granted, the plaintiff giving security.

Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny, as security for the plaintiff, entered into an obligation as follows:—

"Know all men by these presents that I, Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny, am held and firmly bound to John Coryton, Esquire, Recorder of Moulmein, in the sum of Rs. 4,825-3 to be paid to the said John Coryton, Esquire, or to the Recorder of Moulmein for the time being, for which payment I bind myself, heirs, executors, and administrators; and for better security I deposit grants Nos. 196, 201, and 1932, dated 16th November 1857, and 15th August 1864, respectively, of the house and ground belonging to me, situated in Great Pagoda Street, No. 4 Division. Dated this 5th day of May 1869.

"Whereas the above-named John Coryton, Esquire, hath allowed Ahmed Eusoofjee to draw from the Court the sum of Rs. 4,825-3 deposited therein to the credit of the decree passed in favor of the said Ahmed Eusoofjee and against Akhoot Ramanah and Ramkurinjee for Rs. 4,825-3 costs included in civil regular suit No. 16 of 1869, notwithstanding that the said Akhoot Ramanah and Ramkurinjee have appealed against the said decree to the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal. Now, the condition of the above written obligation is such that, if the said decree should be reversed or modified in appeal, the said Hadjee "Abdool Ryman Moodeny shall, when "called upon by the said John Coryton, "Esquire, pay or cause to be paid unto the "said John Coryton, Esquire, or to the "Recorder of Moulmein for the time being, "all such sum and sums of money as shall "be decreed against the said Ahmed "Eusoofjee."

The surety Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny also deposited as further security the title-deeds of the three grants, *viz.*, Nos. 196, 201, and 1932.

The appeal, having been set down for hearing, was dismissed for default of prosecution on the 24th of November 1869. The appellant, within 30 days, applied for re-admission of the appeal.

On the 19th of January 1870, the surety applied for the return of his grant and the cancellation of his bond. No notice of this application appears to have been given to, or served on, the appellant; but the Recorder, on the *ex-parte* application of the surety and on production of a certificate, dated the 14th of December, showing that the appeal had been dismissed for the want of prosecution, allowed the grants deposited as securities to be taken out of Court, and wrote the word "cancelled" across the bond.

The High Court, having re-admitted the appeal on the 21st of April 1870, reversed the decree of the Recorder, and dismissed the suit of the plaintiff with costs. On the 3rd of October 1870, the appellants applied to the Recorder for an order calling on the surety Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny and the plaintiff to pay into Court the sum of Rs. 4,825-3 with interest and costs awarded by the decree of the Appellate Court, amounting, on the whole, to the sum of Rs. 6,460-5-5. The Recorder dismissed the case as against the surety with costs.

From that decision an appeal has been presented to this Court.

The first question we have to consider is whether the decree of the Appellate Court can be executed against the surety.

By the 363rd Section of the Code of Civil Procedure, it is enacted that "decrees "of an Appellate Court shall be executed "by the first Court in manner and according to the rules hereinbefore contained for "the execution of original decrees."

By Section 204—"Whenever a person has "become liable as security for the perform-"ance of a decree, the decree may be exe-"cuted against such person to the extent to "which he has rendered himself liable in "the same manner as a decree may be en-"forced against a defendant."

The cases of Ramkishen Dass *versus* Aurkoo Singh, 7 Weekly Reporter, p. 329, and Gojendro Narain Roy *vs.* Hemangini Dassee,* cited by the respondent's Counsel, are distinguishable from that before us. They are cases of engagements by sureties subsequent to the final termination of the suit, wholly independent of, and collateral to it. That which we have before us is a contract entered into in the course of proceedings in the appeal, and which is itself in the nature of a proceeding in the suit, whereby the surety renders himself liable to an order to be thereafter made on the appeal.

We think that the view taken by the appellant is correct. The surety having rendered himself liable as security for the performance of the decree of the Appellate Court, there seems no reason to doubt that under Section 204 such decree may be enforced against him as if he had been a defendant or respondent in the suit.

The next point is whether an appeal lies from the order of Mr. Coryton dismissing the case against the surety. By Section 27 of the Recorder's Act, it is enacted that, in suits determined by the Recorder in which the amount exceeds 3,000 rupees, and is less than Rupees 10,000, an appeal shall lie to the High Court subject to the rules contained in the said Code of Civil Procedure (*i. e*, Act VIII. of 1859, as amended by Act XXIII. of 1861) regarding regular appeals."

Section 11 of Act XXIII. of 1861 enacts that all questions regarding the amount of any mesne-profits which, by the terms of the decree, may have been reserved for adjustment in the execution of the decree, or of any mesne-profits or interest which may be payable in respect of the subject-matter of a suit between the date of that suit, and the execution of the decree, as well as questions relating to sums alleged to have been paid in discharge or satisfaction of the decree or the like, *and any other questions arising between the parties to the suit in which the decree was passed and relating to the execution of the decree*, shall be determined by the order of the Court executing the decree, and not by separate suit, and *the order passed by the Court shall be open to appeal.*

The question is whether an order under Section 204 relating to the execution of a decree against the surety is open to appeal.

We think it is not an unnatural construction of the words of this Section to hold that a surety who becomes liable as security for the performance of a decree, against whom an order may be made under the 204th Section that the decree may be executed against him as surety, is a party to the suit within the meaning of that term as there used. He is a person against whom an order may be made in the suit. He has a right to be heard in the suit to show cause against any order directly affecting him. He has surely a right to be treated as a party to the proceedings upon any execution issued against him. It seems impossible to suppose that a surety against whom an order for execution should be made under Section 204 would not have a right of appeal against orders made in the course of the execution of a decree against him. If so, it must be because he has become a party to the suit as surety.

In the case of Bhikaji Vithal Ambikar, 4 Bombay Reports 119, the Sudder Ameen, upon the application of one of two sureties against whom a decree was being executed under Section 204, ordered an attachment on the property of the sureties to be removed. The High Court of Bombay, on the appeal of the judgment-creditor, held that an appeal lay under Section 11 of Act XXIII. of 1861 in a matter between the judgment-creditor and the surety of the judgment-debtor.

This ruling, which is directly in point, is in accordance with the previous decision of a Division Bench of the High Court here—Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson and Mr. Justice Hobhouse—in Ghoree Lall Jha *versus* Sheo Narain Singh, 8 Weekly Reporter 24, where the question arose upon an appeal by the surety against an order passed by the Court in executing a decree against him.

The next question is what is the effect of the order of the Recorder on the petition of the 19th of January 1870, and the cancellation of the bond which then took place.

* 13 W. R., p. 35.

It appears that this order was made on application of the respondent and without notice to the appellants. Had such notice been given, there can be no doubt that the appellants would have pointed that a petition had been presented for re-admission of the appeal. The cancellation of the bond appears to have taken place in consequence of a mistake on the part of the Recorder in supposing that the appeal had been finally dismissed. The security which was given under Section 339 for the restitution of the money and the due performance of the decree of the Appellate Court. We think this means the performance of such order or decree as the Appellate Court shall finally pass. The order discharging the surety while proceedings in the Appellate Court were still pending, and before the final decree of the Appellate Court had been pronounced, was, in our opinion, erroneous and invalid.

The only remaining point is to what extent the surety is liable under the obligation.

Mr. Lowe compared the case to that of a bond in the English form, by which the obligor binds himself in a penal sum usually double the amount of the sum intended to be secured, and there is a condition that, if the obligor duly pays the sum secured, or performs the acts stipulated for, the bond is to be void; but that otherwise it shall remain in full force. Mr. Lowe contended that the sum of Rupees 4,827-3 must be treated as a penal sum beyond which the obligor could not be made liable. And if this obligation were simply a bond in the ordinary English form, Mr. Lowe's argument would have been unanswerable. In the face of such a bond in the ordinary form, conditioned for the performance of particular acts, all that the obligor engages to do is to pay the penalty; and there is a proviso that, if the condition be performed, the bond or obligation shall be void. It is well-settled that the liability of the obligor is limited to the amount of the penalty in such cases. See Branscomb *versus* Scarborough, 6 Queen's Bench Reports, page 13.

The rule, however, is not inflexible. Where it appears that, upon the true construction of the agreement as contained in the bond, the obligor has really entered into an engagement binding him to an extent beyond the sum mentioned in the first part of the bond, that obligation may be enforced. Thus, in Francis *versus* Wilson, Ryan and Moody, page 105, the bond was in the sum of £120 conditioned for the payment of £120 and interest, and it was held by Littledale, J., that interest beyond the amount of the penal sum of £120 might be recovered. The obligation before us is not in the form of an ordinary English bond.

The 339th Section of the Code of Civil Procedure empowers the Court allowing execution of a decree which has been appealed from to require security; *first*, for the restitution of property taken in execution; and, *secondly*, for the due performance of the decree of the Appellate Court.

The obligation entered into by the surety by the instrument before us is substantially in the form contemplated by Section 339. That part of the bond which comes as a condition purports to bind Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny to the payment of *all such sums of money as should be decreed against Ahmed Eusoofjee by the Appellate Court.* Had the bond been given upon an application of the appellants that the respondent should give security under Section 339 before receiving the money out of Court, we should be disposed to think that we ought to construe this particular bond as a covenant binding the surety to the extent contemplated by the 339th Section, *i. e.*, not only to the restitution of the money, but to the performance of the decree.

The appellant's petition of the 23rd of April 1869 simply prays the Court to detain the money in Court pending the decision of the appeal.

The order on this application is: "Let the money be held till the further order of the Court."

There is not on the proceedings any application by the appellants that the respondents should furnish security under Section 339.

The order upon which the money was paid out of Court and the bond taken is not amongst the proceedings. It was for the appellant to have brought this order before us.

We are, therefore, unable to say that there was any order under Section 339, which showed that Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny as surety was to be bound to any greater extent than the sum which stands as the penalty of this bond. Upon the whole, we cannot say that we are satisfied

either that the surety meant to bind himself beyond the extent of Rupees 4,825-3, or that, upon the true construction of the bond, he is bound to a greater extent.

We order that the amount of Rupees 4,825-3 be paid to the appellants by the said Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny within seven days after the service of this decree upon him, and that, in default, execution do issue against him.

An order for such execution must be applied for by the appellants in the usual way.

The surety Hadjee Abdool Ryman Moodeny must pay the costs of this appeal. We allowt wenty gold mohurs for counsel's, pleaders' and agents' fees.

The 22nd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Kisteebundee—Execution—Procedure.

Case No. 2477 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Hooghly, dated the 30th August 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Ghattal, dated the 31st March 1870.

Madhub Chunder Dundput (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Madhub Lall Khan (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Tarucknath Sein for Respondent.

There is no procedure under Act VIII. of 1859, amounting to a warrant of attorney under the English law, according to which execution may be taken out of a kisteebundee incorporated into a decree or made part and parcel thereof, without a previous resort to a regular suit.

Paul, J.—In this case, it is quite clear that the Judge of the Court below has not in any way attempted to carry out the order of remand which very clearly directed him to try the additional issue raised by the supplementary plaint and the written statement put in in answer thereto. He has passed a judgment somewhat unintelli and wholly irrelevant to the question w he was directed to try, and we have in appellate stage of the case to decide a q tion of law which was raised in the wr statement to the supplementary plaint, which, up to this moment, has not be any way considered by the Lower App Court, so that the remand which was m virtually turns out unnecessary and in tuous.

The facts of this case are very si these. The plaintiff obtained against Doorga Monee a decree on the 8th of 1865. Doorga Monee was unable to off that decree, and she executed a ki bundee for the money due under the cree as well as for other sums of m due (but not under that decree), amo ing to the sum of 180 rupees to be paid in 20 years' time, and pledged, amo other properties, the property in dispute this cause. The terms of the ki bundee not being observed, the plai sued out execution under the kisteebund put up the property in dispute to purchased the same on the 3rd Novem 1867, and obtained a sale-certificate on 23rd January 1868. In endeavouring take possession of the property so purchas he was opposed by the defendant, wh title to the property is also derived un another decree passed at or about the t of the decree against Doorga Monee, un which execution was sued out and the p perty in dispute purchased by the defend on the 29th of March 1867. The defend raises two points against the plaint claim:—1st, that the plaintiff was according to law, entitled to sue out exe tion under the kisteebundee by which property was pledged; and, 2nd, that, she were entitled so to do, the kisteeb dee itself was a collusive transaction, that it was so, was so apparent on the face the transaction that he proposed to exami the plaintiff with regard to it, but that prayer to have the plaintiff examined w not heeded by the Court below.

With regard to the first point, it is qui clear to us that, where a kisteebundee is n incorporated into a decree and made p and parcel of a decree, there is no proced under Act VIII. amounting to a warrant attorney under the English law according which execution may be taken out witho first resorting to a regular suit, and conse quently this attempt to take a short cut at

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edy which is only given under decrees t fail, and the first point which the de-dant raises must be decided in his favor. against this view, the pleader for the re-ndent has cited a case reported in Volume Bengal Law Reports, p. 223,* which is d upon two cases in Volume V., Weekly orter, Small Cause Court References, p. and Volume VI., Small Cause Court Cases, . The case in the Bengal Law Reports, doubt, fully bears out the proposition put ard by the respondent's pleader; but in-uch as that case furnishes no reasons, implicitly relies upon, and follows the au-ity of, the other two earlier cases above ded to, we cannot regard it as an author-ve declaration of the law beyond the that it professes to follow two cases iously decided. The first case on which based, namely, the one in 5th Weekly orter, Small Cause Court Cases, page 19, s not appear to contain anything in sup-t of the proposition laid down in the gal Law Reports; and the judgment in second case, in Volume VI., Small Cause rt Cases, page 1, on being read with the e as submitted, merely tends to support proposition which, we admit, is a correct position of law that, where an arrange-nt by kisteebundee or otherwise has been orporated in a decree, and forms part of decree, execution can be sued out.

Moreover, in this case, it must not be otten that the kisteebundee was exe-d, not only for the money due under the ree, but for other sums of money, so that, n if the authority upon which the plea-for the respondent relies, and we may fairly relies, was perfectly correct in law, the present case is clearly distinguish-e by reason of the kisteebundee in it ering sums of money other than the s decreed; and we do not think that any e has gone to the length of holding that kisteebundee executed for the payment a sum due under a decree and for other s of money due can be executed in a mmary manner by execution being taken under it, instead of the more regular m of proceeding by a regular suit.

This objection of the defendant prevail-, the suit of the plaintiff is necessarily missed. But we would also observe on e 2nd branch of the case that the circum-nces under which the kisteebundee was executed, the time for the re-payment of the small sum of 180 rupees being 20 years, and the amount of the instalments being less than 10 rupees a year, clearly indicate that the judgment-debtor was not to be harassed so long as it pleased him, for no reasonable person could believe that any one would require 20 years to repay the small sum of Rupees 180. These circumstances tend to cast a cloud of suspicion over the truth of the transaction disclosed by that kistee-bundee, and so clear was the defendant in his impression that the kisteebundee was not *bonâ fide*, that he was prepared to abide by the evidence of the plaintiff him-self with regard to its *bona fides*, and he accordingly prayed that the plaintiff should be examined. The prayer was a very pro-per one, and should have been granted, but it appears that, owing to some views which both the Courts below took of the matter, wholly irrelevant to the question to be tried, his prayer was rejected. Therefore, in deciding the case, as we have done on the other ground, although this was not a technical point, but a very material point in the case, we are glad to observe that there is much in the case besides that to satisfy us that the ends of justice would be better served if the plaintiff were left to resort to a regular suit to prove the *bona fides* of the kisteebundee on which he relies.

The special appeal will, therefore, be allowed, and the suit of the plaintiff dis-missed with all costs.

The 22nd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Section 143, Act X. of 1859—Distress—Construc-tion.

Case No. 69 of 1871 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Jessore, dated the 4th No-vember 1870, affirming a decision of the Deputy Collector of Nurrail, dated the 31st March 1870.

Raye Kumul Dossee (one of the Defendants), *Appellant,*

versus

Jhoroo Mollah and others (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

* 11 W. R., p. 86.

Mr. M. M. Datta and *Baboo Motee Lall Mookerjee* fer Appellant.

Baboo Grija Sunkur Mojoomdar for Respondent.

In order to maintain a suit under Section 143, Act X. of 1859, the plaintiff must prove that the defendant, in making the distress, was acting, not only without right, but without anything to justify him in supposing that he had a right to distrain—a mere trespasser without any reasonable foundation for the claim set up.

Macpherson, J.—It appears to me that this case ought to be remanded, because there is no distinct finding by the Court as to the circumstances under which the defendant made the distress on which the plaintiff's suit is based.

The Judge below evidently considered that the suit was brought under Section 141 of Act X. of 1859; but it is clear, and it is admitted by the respondent's pleader, that the suit was not brought under that Section but under Section 143, under which alone it will lie. The provisions of Section 143 are quite different from those of Section 141; and, in order to maintain his suit under Section 143, the plaintiff must prove that the defendant, in making the distress, was acting, not only without right, but without anything to justify him in supposing that he had a right to distrain.

The effect of Section 143 was fully considered in the case of Joy Lall Shaikh *versus* Brijo Nath Paul Chowdhry, reported in 9 Weekly Reporter, page 162. In delivering judgment in that case, Sir Barnes Peacock said: "It is clear that the Section "(143) refers to the case of a person dis-"training under color of the Act when he is "not empowered to distrain, and it is clear "that, by the use of the words 'under color "of the Act,' the Legislature did not mean "under circumstances which were sufficient "to induce the distrainer honestly to believe "that he was justified in making the dis-"tress; for, if that had been their intention, "they would have enacted that the distrain-"er should be subject to the penalties for "the offence of criminal trespass.

"Section 142 gives an action against a "person empowered to distrain who shall "distrain otherwise than under the provi-"sions of the Act. That is an example of "a suit arising out of the exercise of the "powers of distraint; whilst Section 143 "furnishes an example of a suit arising out "of an act done under color of the exercise "of the said power. Both are suits within "the provisions of Section 23, and the pre-"sent suit is one which might be brought "under Section 143, and consequently can-"not be brought in any other Court than "that of the Collector. * * * *

"If a person sues another as his ryot for "rent when there is no pretence or founda-"tion whatever for the allegation that the "land belongs to him, or that the defendant "is his ryot, or that there is rent due, such "suit is cognizable only by the Revenue "Courts; and the Legislature seems to have "intended to have left to the Collector the "sole determination of suits arising out of "acts done in the colorable exercise of the "power of distress, as well as suits for rent "claimed to be due."

Adopting the interpretation thus put upon Section 143, it appears to me that the plaintiff must establish distinctly that the defendant distrained when he was a mere trespasser, and when there was no reasonable foundation whatever for the allegation that he was entitled to the rent which he claimed in respect of this land. The mere fact that the defendant had no legal right to make the distress will not be sufficient.

In trying this case again, the Court must direct its attention specially to the position which the defendant, at the time of distraining, occupied with respect to the land for the rent of which the distress was made. There is no doubt the defendant had (or at any rate had recently had) *some* connection with the land; because it is clear that he got an amulnamah for it from the zemindar's gomashta. The Court must find distinctly what, if anything, was done besides the mere giving of the amulnamah. The gomashta by his evidence apparently desired to support the defendant's case. But his evidence requires to be considered very carefully, because there are some patent discrepancies in his statements. He says that the lands covered by the amulnamah (which I presume included these particular lands, for, if it did not, the amulnamah has no bearing on the matter in dispute) were in the khas possession of the zemindar at the time the amulnamah was given. At the same time dakhilas are put in by the plaintiff commencing with 1269, which is prior in date to the amulnamah. If these dakhilas are true, and if the plaintiff was paying rent in 1269 and the subsequent years, it is difficult to see how the gomashta's statement that

e land was in the khas possession of the mindar at the time the amulnamah was en to the defendant can be true.

There is a good deal of other evidence sides that of the gomashta; and in calling ention to the matter to which I have just erred, I am not to be taken as express- any opinion one way or the other as to general conclusion which the Lower urt ought to draw from the gomashta's dence taken as a whole. I only say that evidence and all the other evidence on record ought to be very carefully and urately considered *de novo*, with reference re especially to the particular point in- ved in Section 143—which point was , in fact, present to the minds of the dges of either of the Lower Courts.

The case will go back for re-trial, and the s of this appeal will follow the result the remand.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 23rd May 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble W. Ainslie, *Judge*.

rror in decree—Execution—Landlord's debt—Payment by tenant.

Cases Nos. 1841 and 1842 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

ecial Appeals from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Nuddea, dated the 3rd June 1870, reversing decisions of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 5th and 7th May 1869.

Mr. James Hills (Defendant), *Appellant*,

versus

Wooma Moyee Burmonee (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Baboos Sreenath Dass and *Bipro Dass Mookerjee* for Appellant.

Baboos Umbica Churn Banerjee and *Kalee Mohun Dass* for Respondent.

Where an appeal was inadvertently decreed against four shareholders instead of against five, the Court, which executed the decree, was held to have erred in recovering the entire amount decreed out of the shares of the four.

Where a tennat is left in that condition in which he is compelled to pay his landlord's debt to save his own security from forfeiture, the circumstances constitute a sufficient authority to make the payment, *e.g.*, the payment of Government revenue to save the estate from sale.

Norman, C. J.—Case No. 1841.—As has been said by the vakeel of the respondent, the question in this appeal is simply this, whether Wooma Moyee Burmonee, who has purchased the rights of Biroja Moyee in 23 mouzahs, part of 59 mouzahs which were let in ijarah to Mr. Hills, is entitled to a proportion of the rent of these 23 mouzahs as if Biroja Moyee were a shareholder possessing 2 annas 13 gundahs 1 cowree and 1 krant, or a shareholder possessing 2 annas 10 gundahs 10 cowrees 2 krants, as found by the first Court.

Now, the facts are, as has been stated very properly by the vakeels on both sides, exceedingly complicated. But the facts which it is material to consider to answer the question before us are not very numerous, nor, when a little care is taken to comprehend them, are they difficult to understand.

There were five persons who were in possession of a large estate, namely, Kristo Nath, Biroja Moyee, Shushee Mookhee, Keshub Chunder, and Eshan Chunder. Biroja Moyee, Shushee Mookhee, and Eshan Chunder, three out of these five, gave in ijarah to Mr. Hills in 1259, 9 annas and 12 gundahs as their share of the 59 mouzahs at a rent of Rupees 28,523. By agreement with Mr. Hills, that rent was afterwards reduced to Rupees 26,628. The date of the second agreement was the 9th Bysack 1264, or in other words, April 1857. Subsequently to the date of that last arrangement, Wooma Moyee Burmonee, the same person who is now plaintiff before us, brought a suit for possession of one-sixth of the property which had been formerly in the possession of the five co-sharers, namely, 2 annas 13 gundahs 1 cowree and 1 krant.

Her suit was dismissed by the first Court. She preferred an appeal, and in consequence of an accidental circumstance, namely, the death of the guardian of the minor, Kristo Nath, and the omission to serve a summons on Bama Soonduree, the mother and guardian of Kristo Nath, after the death of the former guardian Chunder Mohun, the appeal proceeded as against four respon-

dents only, namely, Biroja Moyee, Shushee Mookhee, Keshub Chunder. and Eshan Chunder. The suit eventuated in a decree against these four respondents, *viz.*, a decree of the Sudder Court, dated the 31st December 1869, declaring the right of Wooma Moyee Burmonee to that which was claimed by her, namely, one-sixth or 2 annas 13 gundahs 1 cowree 1 krant.

Now, it is clear that the Sudder Court did not apparently advert to the fact that in executing that decree—if it could have been properly executed at all in the absence of Kristo Nath—Wooma Moyee was not entitled to take from the shares of Biroja Moyee, Shushee Mookhee, Keshub Chunder, or Eshan Chunder, anything more than what would leave to each of the co-sharers a proportion of 2 annas 13 gundahs 1 cowree and 1 krant, and as against the 4 respondents she ought to have recovered an amount equal to 4-5th of the total of that to which she was entitled, namely, 4-5th of 2 annas 13 gundahs 1 cowree 1 krant. Instead of that, by an error which we must say is of a most astonishing description, the Subordinate Judge appears, in executing that decree, to have made four of the defendants suffer for the omission of Wooma Moyee in not making Kristo Nath a party, and he actually took out of *their* shares the amount which Wooma Moyee ought to have recovered from the estate of Kristo Nath.

Gross as that error was, it appears to have been submitted to by all the parties, who would not, did not, or could not, have the matter set right; and Wooma Moyee comes into Court in the present suit declaring that she now is in possession in her own right under that decree of 2 annas 13 gundahs 1 cowree and 1 krant.

Now, let us see how that operates on the rights of Mr. Hills, the tenant of the three ijmalee holders, Biroja Moyee, Shushee Mookhee and Eshan Chunder, who, as we have already said, let to Mr. Hills 9 annas 12 gundahs of the whole estate. At the present date, Kristo Nath is, as he always has been, in possession of 3 annas 4 gundahs.

Wooma Moyee is in possession under the decree in her favor in her own right, by a title quite independent of Mr. Hills' lease, of 2 annas 13 gundahs 1 cowree and 1 krant, and Keshub Chunder by himself or his ryots is in possession of 2 annas 10 gundahs 2 cowrees and 2 krants.

The sum of these several shares of wh Mr. Hills is not in possession is 8 an 8 gundahs, leaving to Mr. Hills at present time, instead of 9 annas 12 gund as originally let to him by the three sharers, only 7 annas 12 gundahs of the mouzahs.

It is open to Mr. Hills to show that title of the landlord has expired; and shows in this present suit that his landl are no longer in possession of more th annas 12 gundahs of the entire property.

Mr. Hills is willing to pay rent to t several parties in proportion to their sh in this 7 annas 12 gundahs.

It is quite clear, looking at it as we h done, that the decision of the first C which gives to Wooma Moyee, as the purc er of the interests of Biroja Moyee in th mouzahs, a decree for rent proportiona a 2 annas 10 gundahs 2 cowrees 2 kr share is correct. That being so, the d sion of the Judge must be reversed, and decree of the first Court must be resto and affirmed, the respondents paying costs both of this appeal and of the ap to the Lower Court. We think, howe that the rate of interest allowed by the Court should be reduced to 6 per cent. annum from the date of the decree in first Court. In cases of this kind wh there is much contest as to what the sum be decreed ought to be, interest at a pe rate should not be allowed.

Case No. 1842.—In this case, an additi al question arises. The defendant, Hills, alleges that he paid the Governm revenue on account of the share of Bi Moyee in the years 1272 and 1273. Hills is a person who has advanced a la sum of money by way of *peshgee* on secu of the lease which he obtained in 1264. being so interested in the estate he paid Government revenue in order to protect from sale. His position is this—that if had made a deposit of the arrear of reve due, and if he proved before a competent C Court that the deposit was made in ord to protect his own lien on the estate, amount so deposited would be added to amount of the original lien. This is provision of Section 9 of Act XI. of 18 There are several reasons why he can avail himself of the benefits of that provisi in the present suit—in the first place, becau it is doubtful whether the Collector's Co

a competent Civil Court within the mean-g of Section 9.

Unless Mr. Hills can treat the payment the Government revenue for the share Biroja Moyee as a payment to Biroja oyee, he cannot have the benefit of that ment in the present suit.

It is argued, and it is rightly argued, that t X. of 1859 contains no provision for any ence by way of set-off. But there are eral cases which show that, if a tenant s money to a creditor of the lessor under lessor's express authority, the amount of oney so paid might be deducted in a suit rent in the Collector's Court. See the e of Karron Lall Thakoor, decided on 18th March 1863, Hay's Reports, page ; also, Mussamut Joy Kooer *versus* Mr. Furlong, Weekly Reporter (Gap Number), e 112, Act X. Rulings, which are author-s to that effect.

It is true that, in the present case, it is not ggested that Biroja Moyee gave any press authority to Mr. Hills to pay the vernment revenue, but she left Mr. Hills that condition that he was compelled to that which was his debt unless he hed to forfeit his own security.

We think that this constituted a sufficient hority to Mr. Hills to make the payment the Government revenue due on account Biroja Moyee's share. There are many glish cases where a point similar to this been ruled. A set-off is no answer to distress for rent. But payments made by tenant under threats or the fear of dis-s for ground-rent or land-tax in dis-rge of the landlord's liability are treated *payment of so much rent then due.* psford *vs.* Fletcher, 4 Term Reports ; Taylor *vs.* Zamira, 6 Taunton 524; bbs *vs.* Parsons, 3 Barnewall and Alderson 16; Carter *vs.* Carter, 5 Bingham 406, r Pollock, Chief Baron; Jones *vs.* Morris, Exch. 746.

We think that justice and good sense irly warrant us in holding that the payment Government revenue by Mr. Hills due respect of Biroja Moyee's share ought to e treated as a payment on account of rent e to Biroja Moyee. The result is that e case must be remanded in order to give r. Hills an opportunity of showing what amount of revenue he paid on account of Biroja Moyee, and to that extent he will be edited. The appeal is decreed with costs.

The 23rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble W. Ainslie, *Judge*.

Decree—Section 287, Act VIII., 1859—Execution—Instalments.

Case No. 455 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 10th September 1870.

Ram Sudoy Ghose and others (Decree-holders), *Appellants*,

versus

Raj Bullubh Saha (Judgment-debtor), *Respondent*.

Baboo Ashootosh Mookerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Nubo Kishen Mookerjee for Respondent.

A decree directing payment by instalments ought to be executed to the extent of the instalments falling due within 3 years before the application for execution.

Norman, C.J.—We are of opinion that the decision of the Judge is erroneous.

The decree which the decree-holder sought to execute was passed in a suit instituted in Zillah Hooghly, and was transmitted to the Court of the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs for execution. A decree so transmitted has, under the 287th Section of Act VIII. of 1859, the same effect as a decree made by the Court of the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs. The Judge, therefore, if he would have entertained an application for execution in a decree of his own Court similar to the present, should have entertained the application which was made to him to execute this decree.

Then comes the question whether the right to execute the decree before us is barred by limitation.

The decree directs that a debt be paid by instalments, the last of which was to become payable in Kartick 1276 or November 1869. The Judge ought to have allowed the decree to be executed to the extent of the instalments which fell due within three years before the application for execution of the 28th of January.

As the plaintiff in his application asked for more than he was entitled to, we do not give him any costs in the appeal. With these observations, we remand the case to the Judge.

The 23rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble Dwarkanath Mitter and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Hindoo law—Adoption—Minor.

Case No. 95 of 1871.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order passed by the Officiating Judge of Rungpore, dated the 4th January 1871.

Rajendro Narain Lahoree (Petitioner), *Appellant,*

versus

Saroda Soonduree Dabee and another (Opposite Party), *Respondents.*

Baboos Nuleet Chunder Sein and *Kalee Prosonno Dutt* for Appellant.

Baboo Essur Chunder Chuckerbutty for Respondents.

A childless Hindoo is bound to adopt a son, if at all anxious for his own salvation; and what is required to be done for that end is not optional with him, but an imperative obligation.

An adoption is not invalidated by the mere fact of the adoptive father being a minor, if he has attained the years of discretion. Such an adoption is not attended by any civil disability.

Mitter, J.—We think there is no ground for the appeal. The ceremony of adoption under this Hindoo Law is essentially of a religious character; and as under that law, every childless Hindoo is deemed sure to go to the hell called "Put," the obligation to adopt a son must be necessarily considered as imperative as a matter of religious duty among Hindoos. It has been argued that a childless Hindoo is under no religious obligation to adopt a son; but this opinion is contrary to the texts both of the Duttaka Chundrica and the Duttaka Mimansa, which are undoubtedly entitled to be considered, and have been always considered, as the highest authorities on the subject of adoption. This is clearly shown by the following passages in page 3 of the Duttaka Mimansa.

"On this subject Atri says: 'By a man "destitute of a son only, must a substitute "for the same always be adopted, with some "one resource for the sake of the fun "cake, water, and solemn rites.'

"A man destitute of a son (*aputra*) is "to whom no son has been born, or w "son has died, for a text of Saunaka expre "'one to whom no son has been born, "whose son has died, having fasted for a "&c.' Another reading recites: 'The i "tent man, or also one whose offspring "died.'

"By a man destitute of a son, "Since it is shown by this, that the bei "destitute is a cause; in omitting to "a son, *an offence even is incurred.* for "precept enjoining the production of a "being positive, it results that the co "vention of it is the cause of an offe "and on defect of any son in general, "clusion from heaven is declared in "text: 'Heaven awaits not one des "of a son, &c.' And further, in the "lowing passage also, a son in gener "shown to be the cause of redemption f "debt: 'A Brahmana, immediately "being born, is produced a debtor in t "obligations; to the holy saints, for "practice of religious duties; to the g "for the performance of sacrifice; to "forefathers, for offspring. Or he is "solved from debt who has a son, has "formed sacrifices, and practices relig "duties.'"

These passages conclusively show th childless Hindoo is bound to adopt a son, he is at all anxious for his own salva and for the preservation of the obsequies to his ancestors.

It has been said that what is require be done for securing a man's own salva must be considered as optional, whe what is required to be done for the bene the souls of his ancestors must be consid as imperative. This distinction seems to to be absurd on the very face of it. E religious ceremony which a Hindoo is quired to perform has reference to his salvation, and the performance of the ob quies due to his ancestors is but a mea that end.

It is further argued that adoption been treated by Hindoo Lawyers under head of "Civil Acts." But this circu stance cannot affect the real character of ceremony which is essentially founded u religious considerations. Supposing, ho ever, that adoption is a civil act, it do not necessarily follow that the adoption this particular case would be invalid, mer because it was made under a deed

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rmission executed by a minor. Every act ne by a minor is not necessarily null and d. Those acts only which are prejudi- l to his interests can be questioned and ided by him after he reaches his majority. t no such prejudicial character can be dicated of adoption in the case of a dless Hindoo, and as under the Hindoo sters a minor who has arrived at the age discretion is not only competent, but nd to perform the religious ceremonies scribed for his salvation, we cannot hold adoption made in this case to be invalid, rely because the adoptive father was, in eye of the law, a minor. Baboo Shama rn Sircar, in his Digest of the Hindoo w, admits that an adoption made by a nor who has attained the age of discre- n is valid from a religious point of view; he goes on to say that a son so adopted uld not be entitled to succeed to the es- of his adoptive father as heir. Upon at reasoning or authority this latter con- sion is based we are unable to make out; if it is once conceded that the adoption alid, all the legal consequences attached it must follow as a matter of course. It not be contended for one moment that property of the adoptive father is to s to his distant relatives when he has left ind him one who is entitled to stand to- rds him precisely in the same position as own *owrasa* son.

For the above reasons, we are of opinion t the conclusion arrived at by the Judge ow is correct, and we therefore dismiss s appeal with costs.

Paul, J.—I entirely concur. The obli- ion to adopt by a sonless Hindoo being the highest moment to him in a religious nt of view, I wholly fail to follow the ument which has been addressed to us the effect that an infant Hindoo who has ined his years of discretion cannot adopt son. The passages cited by my learned league leave no doubt whatever on the tter, and the suggestion that civil disabi- precludes an infant Hindoo from adopt- is one which entirely conflicts with the damental principles on which the disabi- of infants are based as a matter of civil w. The provision is intended for their tection, and matters which are highly neficial are not within the disability.

I concur in dismissing both the appeals ith costs.

The 23rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Mokurruree grant—Resumption.

Cases Nos. 142 and 147 of 1870.

Regular Appeals from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated the 30th March 1870.

Mirza Himmut Bahadoor and others (Defendants), *Appellants.*

versus

Ranee Sooneet Kooer (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Mr. J. P. Kennedy for Appellants.

The Advocate-General (Graham) for Respondent.

A mokurruree tenure granted in perpetuity cannot be resumed by the grantor, even if the grantee dies without leaving heirs.

Ainslie, J.—The plaintiff, who is one of the widows of the late Rajah Mode Narain Singh, has brought this suit to recover from the defendants a 7½ annas share of Mouzah Pranpore granted in mokurruree by the Rajah to his daughter Shurfoonissa in the year 1248, F. S., on the allegation that the grant was limited to the life of the grantee, and that she died on the 30th Kartick 1265, F. S.

It is alleged that the plaintiff was not aware of the death of the grantee till the end of 1272, when she took possession of the village, but was put out of possession by an order of the Magistrate of Gya, made under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, on the 7th February 1866 (the middle of 1273).

Shurfoonissa was the illegitimate daughter of the Rajah (who had no legitimate issue) by a Mahomedan lady named Buratee Begum.

The defendants who appear in this Court as appellants are a brother and sister of Shurfoonissa and a deceased brother's widow.

They allege that she died in infancy on the 10th Chyet 1249, F. S., and that, on her death, the village was held under the mokurruree grant by their mother Buratee Begum up to her death in 1267 (about two years after the death of the Rajah) and subsequently by themselves.

The lower Court has held that the grant to Shurfoonissa was not merely for life, but in perpetuity. But inasmuch as she died childless, and in a recent decision of this Court reported in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 512, it was held that in the circumstances of this family no right of inheritance, under Imameah Law, vests in the surviving brother or sister, the Subordinate Judge came to the conclusion that the grant had become inoperative, and that the grantor had a right to resume it. It was contended before him that, even supposing the defendants not to be rightful heirs, yet the plaintiff would have no right to resume the grant as the property would be liable to be taken by the ruling power as an escheat, and that, so long as the party rightfully entitled abstained from pressing his claim, the defendants were entitled to retain possession undisturbed. This plea was overruled on the ground that the defendants in possession were mere trespassers, and that, as the legal right to the property is either in the grantor or the Crown, the former, in the absence of any claim by the latter, is entitled to maintain the suit.

The defendants also pleaded limitation, but this plea was overruled.

Mr. Kennedy, who appeared for the special appellants, stated that the main objection to the finding of the Lower Court is in respect of that portion in which the Subordinate Judge lays down that, as the succession is vacant, the grantor is entitled to re-enter. For the purposes of this appeal, we may confine ourselves to this objection.

The Court below holds that the mokurruree tenure was granted in perpetuity, and not for life, and this finding has not been questioned by way of cross-appeal, or under Section 348, Act VIII. of 1859.

The grant is made to Shurfoonissa and her children from generation to generation, and in it she is described as absolute (*moostukkil*) mokurrureedar.

Tenures created in these terms, and not in any way limited by other special conditions, are always treated as of the most absolute character, and are every day transferred both by private sale and in execution of decree. Had Shurfoonissa conveyed the estate to another, the grantor could not have ousted the assignee. Supposing she had died leaving a husband and children, this estate would have descended according to the ordinary rules of Mahomedan Law, and no change in the order of succession would have been caused by the use of the words "to h children from generation to generation." is, at least, extremely doubtful whether th grantor could have altered the course descent established by law, if he had inten ed to do so. It is, however, sufficient to that the terms of the grant are those o narily employed in creating an estate govern by those rules, and that, if it had been intention of the grantor to limit the grant some other mode, he would have specific stated this intention. In the absence of words of limitation, we cannot hold that Rajah intended to create anything but estate in perpetuity with absolute power the grantee to deal with it as she thou proper, and that he never contemplated possibility of failure of issue, or intended interfere with the ordinary course of desc

It is hardly necessary to consider the co duct of Rajah Mode Narain which has be referred to as showing that he never thou that his grant was less than absolute, but certainly was not in any way inconsist with an intention to grant a mokurru tenure without any reservation. He made attempt to resume it on the death of h daughter, but allowed her mother to enjoy and it is admitted that up to 1272 (seve years after his death) receipts for the reserve rent continued to be granted in the daughte name, and the mokurruree tenure as origin ly established was treated as subsisting.

There is a dispute as to the precise da of Shurfoonissa's death. The direct evidenc on this point on either side is unsatisfactory but looking to the examination of the Rane there is no room to doubt that the plaintif case is false, and that, in fact, Shurfoonis died at an early age.

We find that Buratee Begum lived with the Rajah's mansion at Ticcaree, and that th particular apartment or building occupied b her stood between the apartments of th Ranees. Those ladies admit that they kne of the existence of the three later bo children, and used to see them about th house, but profess never to have set eyes o the eldest.

Yet if the statement in the plaint is true Shurfoonissa had attained the age of 17 year before she died, and it is incredible that the ladies should have known nothing of her It may not be established with certainty th Shurfoonissa died on 10th Chyet 1249 a alleged by defendants, but there can be no doubt that she died in the lifetime of her father, and not two months after him as alleg ed by plaintiff.

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As it appears to us that the plaintiff has together failed to show that any right to ume the grant on failure of issue was re-ved to the grantor, we hold that the judg-nt of the Court below cannot be maintain-

The plaintiff can succeed only on the ngth of her own title, and not on the kness of that of the defendant. She is nd to show that she was the party entitled ke the estate when it became vacant on death of Shurfoonissa before she can ask Court to eject the defendants who are in session.

The Subordinate Judge seems to think that re is something in the nature of a kurruree grant which renders it capable of mption, if there be no known heir of the holder, but no authority has been shown support this opinion.

It would hardly be contended that a man o makes a gift has a better title than a anger to the thing given, if the owner, er accepting and holding it for a time, ould abandon it.

The Rajah created a certain estate, and pressed the stamp of perpetuity on it for e express purpose of making a free gift of to his daughter, and the fact that she had pay a certain rent, or, in other words, that e gift was of a part only of the profits of e land, does not make it anything less than gift. He reserved to himself a certain ght over the lands given, namely, the right o receive a fixed rent, but he absolutely di-ested himself of any other right. The ansfer of the property to a stranger in no ay affects the right reserved, which attaches o the land in whosesoever hands it may be, nd is therefore at all times adequately secur-d. If the rent be not paid, there are pro-per legal remedies, but resumption of the grant is not among these, where there is no xpress stipulation to that effect.

We think that the plaintiff has failed to establish any title to resume the mokurruree grant, and therefore, without entering into the other questions involved in this suit, we admit the appeals, and, reversing the judgment of the Court below, dismiss the plaintiff's suit with costs of both Courts.

The 25th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Section 35, Act XXIII. of 1861—Illegal order.

In the matter of

Tara Chund Mundul (Decree-holder), *Petitioner*,

versus

Bhyrub Chunder Chuckerbutty (Judgment-debtor), *Opposite Party*.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Petitioner.

Baboo Oopender Chunder Bose for Opposite Party.

A rule having been issued calling on a judgment-debtor to show cause why an order of the Collector in appeal, reversing an order made by a Deputy Collector in execution, should not be set aside, the rule was discharged with costs inasmuch as, although the Collector had no jurisdiction to make the order which he made, the Deputy Collector's order was wrong, being a violation of the provisions of Section 92 of Act X. of 1859, and could not be upheld.

Norman, C. J.—A RULE was issued by a Division Bench of this Court upon a petition of the decree-holder in this case under Section 35 of Act XXIII. of 1861, calling on the judgment-debtor to show cause why an order passed by the Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs on appeal, reversing an order made by the Deputy Collector of Barripore in execution of a decree for rent under Act X. of 1859, should not be set aside as having been made without jurisdiction.

The facts are shortly these:—

Plaintiff obtained a decree on the 29th of August 1866 for a sum under Rupees 500 for rent and costs.

On the 12th of September 1869, the decree-holder made an application to the Deputy Collector for the sale of the tenure of the judgment-debtor. The Deputy Collector admitted the application, and on the 15th of December 1870 the tenure was sold.

The judgment-debtor appealed from the order of the Deputy Collector allowing the sale to the Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs.

The Collector reversed the order of the Deputy Collector on the ground that Section 92 of Act X. of 1859 precluded the issue of process of any description on a judgment under that Act for less than Rupees 500 after the lapse of three years from the date of the judgment.

We think that, under Act X. of 1859, no appeal lies to the Collector from the order of a Deputy Collector made in execution of a decree, and, consequently, that the order of the Collector was one which he had no power to make.

A large discretion is left to the Court by Section 35. If we were to make an order for setting aside the Collector's decision, we should be giving an appearance of validity to the order of the Deputy Collector made in violation of the provisions of Section 92.

The object of the petitioner, as disclosed in his petition, is to set up the sale made under the order of the Deputy Collector. We think he is not entitled to ask any such relief at our hand. We shall follow the example set us in a somewhat analogous case by the Full Bench, 6 Weekly Reporter, Act X. Rulings, page 54, and discharge the rule with costs.

The 25th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judge*.

Sale for arrears of revenue—Purchaser's rights—Section 37, Act XI., 1859—Resumption-decree—Proprietary rights—Cause of action.

Case No. 15 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 28th December 1870, affirming a decision of the 2nd Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 26th May 1870.

Thakoor Dass Roy Chowdhry and others (Defendants), *Appellants.*

versus

Nubeen Kishen Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Anund Chunder Ghossal* for Appellants.

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Sreenath Doss* for Respondent.

A purchaser at a sale for arrears of revenue, with a paramount title under Section 37, Act XI. of 1859, acquires the estate free from any incumbrance which accrued thereupon from the laches of former proprietors, in the same way as he would have acquired it free from any incumbrance created by sale, lease, or mortgage.

In the absence of any proof to the contrary, such purchaser must be assumed to be the owner.

A resumption-decree does not destroy the proprietary right of the lakherajdars which continues, unless and until they are dispossessed in due course of law. By obtaining a permanent settlement, they acquire no new right; a cause of action accruing to them if ousted before settlement.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a special appeal from the decision of the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs.

The facts are very clearly stated in the judgment of the learned Judge, which is as follows:—

"On the 31st December 1838, the Government recovered a decree in a suit for the resumption of beegahs 738-13 of lakheraj land in mouzah Joikistonugur. The area is so specified in the chitta of 1190 and in the taidad No. 8242 filed in 1204. The Deputy Collector, Doorga Pershad Ghose, was directed to make a settlement of these lands, and he deputed an Ameen, Chunder Kant Chuckerbutty, who measured them in 1841 in 17 plots, and found beegahs 942-1, of which only 160 beegahs were cultivated. By a proceeding, dated August 6th, 1846, the Deputy Collector approved of the Ameen's proceedings, and a settlement of the estate which was entered on the rent-roll as No. 1137 was made for 10 years with Chunder Koomar Dutt, the representative of Issur Chunder Dutt, who was the defendant in the resumption-proceedings. The original lakherajdars noted in the taidad were Sudasib Dutt and others, sebaits of the dewutter endowment of Luckhee Junnardun Thakoor.

"On the expiration of this temporary settlement, Deputy Collector Okhoy Churn Bose was deputed to make a new settlement, and he measured 880 beegahs

"almost all of which was immediately "claimed by the neighbouring zemindars. "It was then found that the survey-officers "had not recognized talook No. 1137, and "the Collector proposed to measure the "neighbouring talooks, and after excluding "the lands belonging to their owners, to "take the remainder as the lands rightfully "belonging to talook No. 1137. But the "representatives of the ex-lakherajdar, Issur "Chunder Dutt, opposed this measure; and "alleging that they had remained since 1846 "in undisturbed possession of the 942 "beegahs found by Doorga Pershad Ghose, "demanded a settlement of the whole. The "Board of Revenue set aside the proceedings "of Deputy Collector Okhoy Churn Bose, "and directed the Collector to make a "settlement of beegahs 942-1 on the basis "of Deputy Collector Doorga Pershad Ghose's "chittahs of measurement. The Board's "order is dated July 5th, 1861; and on the "30th April 1863 the estate so constituted "was put up to sale for arrears of revenue, and "was purchased by the present plaintiff.

"But the new purchaser was never allowed "to take possession; and he has instituted "this suit to recover possession of the "beegahs 942-1 which were measured by "the Deputy Collector Doorga Pershad "Ghose.

"He is met in the first instance by the "plea of limitation on the ground that the "defendants, who are the proprietors of the "adjoining talooks, have had possession "of the lands in question for more than "twelve years. The Subordinate Judge "observes that the plaintiff has acquired "the rights which accrued to Government "under the resumption-decree on the 31st "December 1838, and is entitled to the 60 "years' limitation from that date. The plaint-"iff cannot take any lands which were "included in the defendant's talooks at the "decennial settlement, but he is entitled "to recover all lands which Doorga Pershad "Ghose included in the first settlement.

"It appears to me that this ruling is "erroneous. It is true that the public claim "to the resumed lands might be pursued "at any time within 60 years from the date "of the resumption-decree, but no such right "accrued to the persons with whom the "settlement was made, or to the plaintiff. "When the settlement was made, the estate "became subject to the same rules and con-"ditions as all other permanently-settled "talooks, and the persons with whom the "settlement was made could not claim "exemption from the ordinary rules of limit-"ation. If the representatives of Issur "Chunder Dutt had not opposed the propo-"sal of the Collector to re-measure the lands "for the purpose of identification, the full "period of limitation applicable to public "claims would have been saved; and the "settlement would have been made of such "lands only as the revenue authorities "might find to be identified by evidence of "some kind. But they repudiated the aid "of the Collector and alleged actual posses-"sion, and therefore the settlement was made "with them, and they took the position of "other talookdars. Nevertheless, I am of "opinion that the suit of the plaintiff to "obtain possession of the lands rightly be-"longing to the estate under the resumption-"decree is not barred by the rules of limita-"tion. The Government had a period of "60 years from the date of the resumption-"decree, that is to say, from 1838; and that "period has not expired. *The person with "whom the settlement was made had a period "of 12 years from the date on which the "settlement was made, that is to say, from* "1863; and that period has not expired. "The plaintiff would have been bound by "the expiry of the 60 years if the date "had preceded the expiry of the 12 years; "but that is not the case here, and a large "proportion of each period has still to "run."

* * * * * *

"It has been urged by the defendants "that the plaintiff is not a *bonâ-fide* pur-"chaser of the estate, and that the old pro-"prietors allowed default in order to pur-"chase the estate and avoid limitation. "But as it appears that limitation would not "have affected the case if there had been no "sale, it is unnecessary to consider the ques-"tion."

We think it may be taken as established that the Dutts were in possession of the land as lakheraj in 1190, and so continued down to the time when the lands were surveyed by Chunder Kant Chuckerbutty under the order of Doorga Pershad Ghose at the period of the settlement in 1841.

The dispossession seems to have dated from a subsequent period, the exact date of which is not apparent.

It has been argued on behalf of the appellants that the Judge was in error in not trying the question whether the plaintiff purchased

On the 12th of September 1869, the decree-holder made an application to the Deputy Collector for the sale of the tenure of the judgment-debtor. The Deputy Collector admitted the application, and on the 15th of December 1870 the tenure was sold.

The judgment-debtor appealed from the order of the Deputy Collector allowing the sale to the Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs.

The Collector reversed the order of the Deputy Collector on the ground that Section 92 of Act X. of 1859 precluded the issue of process of any description on a judgment under that Act for less than Rupees 500 after the lapse of three years from the date of the judgment.

We think that, under Act X. of 1859, no appeal lies to the Collector from the order of a Deputy Collector made in execution of a decree, and, consequently, that the order of the Collector was one which he had no power to make.

A large discretion is left to the Court by Section 35. If we were to make an order for setting aside the Collector's decision, we should be giving an appearance of validity to the order of the Deputy Collector made in violation of the provisions of Section 92.

The object of the petitioner, as disclosed in his petition, is to set up the sale made under the order of the Deputy Collector. We think he is not entitled to ask any such relief at our hand. We shall follow the example set us in a somewhat analogous case by the Full Bench, 6 Weekly Reporter, Act X. Rulings, page 54, and discharge the rule with costs.

The 25th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judge*.

Sale for arrears of revenue—Purchaser's rights—Section 37, Act XI., 1859—Resumption-decree—Proprietary rights—Cause of action.

Case No. 15 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, dated the 28th December 1870, affirming a decision of the 2nd Subordinate Judge of that District, dated the 26th May 1870.

Thakoor Dass Roy Chowdhry and other (Defendants), *Appellants.*

versus

Nubeen Kishen Ghose (Plaintiff), *Respond*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *A Chunder Ghossal* for Appellants.

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Sre Doss* for Respondent.

A purchaser at a sale for arrears of revenue, w paramount title under Section 37, Act XI. of 18 quires the estate free from any incumbrance accrued thereupon from the laches of former propri in the same way as he would have acquired it free any incumbrance created by sale, lease, or mortg

In the absence of any proof to the contrary, purchaser must be assumed to be the owner.

A resumption-decree does not destroy the propri right of the lakherajdars which continues, unless until they are dispossessed in due course of law. obtaining a permanent settlement, they acquire no right; a cause of action accruing to them if ousted b settlement.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is a special ap from the decision of the Judge of the Pergunnahs.

The facts are very clearly stated in judgment of the learned Judge, which is follows:—

"On the 31st December 1838, the Gove "ment recovered a decree in a suit for "resumption of beegahs 738-13 of lakh "land in mouzah Joikistonugur. The "is so specified in the chitta of 1190 "in the taidad No. 8242 filed in 1204. "Deputy Collector, Doorga Pershad Gh "was directed to make a settlement of th "lands, and he deputed an Ameen, Chun "Kant Chuckerbutty, who measured th "in 1841 in 17 plots, and found beeg "942-1, of which only 160 beegahs w "cultivated. By a proceeding, dated Aug "6th, 1846, the Deputy Collector approved "the Ameen's proceedings, and a settlem "of the estate which was entered on th "rent-roll as No. 1137 was made for t "years with Chunder Koomar Dutt, th "representative of Issur Chunder Dutt, wh "was the defendant in the resumption-pr "ceedings. The original lakherajdars not "in the taidad were Sudasib Dutt and other "sebaits of the dewutter endowment "Luckhee Junnardun Thakoor.

"On the expiration of this tempor "settlement, Deputy Collector Okhoy Chun "Bose was deputed to make a new settl "ment, and he measured 88 beegah

almost all of which was immediately claimed by the neighbouring zemindars. It was then found that the survey-officers had not recognized talook No. 1137, and the Collector proposed to measure the neighbouring talooks, and after excluding the lands belonging to their owners, to take the remainder as the lands rightfully belonging to talook No. 1137. But the representatives of the ex-lakherajdar, Issur Chunder Dutt, opposed this measure; and pleging that they had remained since 1846 in undisturbed possession of the 942 beegahs found by Doorga Pershad Ghose, demanded a settlement of the whole. The Board of Revenue set aside the proceedings of Deputy Collector Okhoy Churn Bose, and directed the Collector to make a settlement of beegahs 942-1 on the basis of Deputy Collector Doorga Pershad Ghose's kittahs of measurement. The Board's order is dated July 5th, 1861; and on the 30th April 1863 the estate so constituted was put up to sale for arrears of revenue, and was purchased by the present plaintiff.

"But the new purchaser was never allowed to take possession; and he has instituted this suit to recover possession of the beegahs 942-1 which were measured by the Deputy Collector Doorga Pershad Ghose.

"He is met in the first instance by the plea of limitation on the ground that the defendants, who are the proprietors of the adjoining talooks, have had possession of the lands in question for more than twelve years. The Subordinate Judge observes that the plaintiff has acquired the rights which accrued to Government under the resumption-decree on the 31st December 1838, and is entitled to the 60 years' limitation from that date. The plaintiff cannot take any lands which were included in the defendant's talooks at the decennial settlement, but he is entitled to recover all lands which Doorga Pershad Ghose included in the first settlement.

"It appears to me that this ruling is erroneous. It is true that the public claim to the resumed lands might be pursued at any time within 60 years from the date of the resumption-decree, but no such right accrued to the persons with whom the settlement was made, or to the plaintiff. When the settlement was made, the estate became subject to the same rules and conditions as all other permanently-settled talooks, and the persons with whom the settlement was made could not claim exemption from the ordinary rules of limitation. If the representatives of Issur Chunder Dutt had not opposed the proposal of the Collector to re-measure the lands for the purpose of identification, the full period of limitation applicable to public claims would have been saved; and the settlement would have been made of such lands only as the revenue authorities might find to be identified by evidence of some kind. But they repudiated the aid of the Collector and alleged actual possession, and therefore the settlement was made with them, and they took the position of other talookdars. Nevertheless, I am of opinion that the suit of the plaintiff to obtain possession of the lands rightly belonging to the estate under the resumption-decree is not barred by the rules of limitation. The Government had a period of 60 years from the date of the resumption-decree, that is to say, from 1838; and that period has not expired. *The person with whom the settlement was made had a period of 12 years from the date on which the settlement was made, that is to say, from* 1863; and that period has not expired. The plaintiff would have been bound by the expiry of the 60 years if the date had preceded the expiry of the 12 years; but that is not the case here, and a large proportion of each period has still to run."

* * * * * *

"It has been urged by the defendants that the plaintiff is not a *bonâ-fide* purchaser of the estate, and that the old proprietors allowed default in order to purchase the estate and avoid limitation. But as it appears that limitation would not have affected the case if there had been no sale, it is unnecessary to consider the question."

We think it may be taken as established that the Dutts were in possession of the land as lakheraj in 1190, and so continued down to the time when the lands were surveyed by Chunder Kant Chuckerbutty under the order of Doorga Pershad Ghose at the period of the settlement in 1841.

The dispossession seems to have dated from a subsequent period, the exact date of which is not apparent.

It has been argued on behalf of the appellants that the Judge was in error in not trying the question whether the plaintiff purchased

at the sale for arrears of revenue in April 1863, and acquired the property at such sale *bonâ fide* on his own account, or whether he merely purchased on account of, and benamee for, the former proprietors, he himself not having any real interest in the matter.

It was also contended that, assuming the plaintiff to have purchased in his own right, the Government and the former proprietors having been out of possession at the date of the sale for arrears of revenue, the plaintiff acquired a mere right of action which he was bound to pursue within the time allowed to the former proprietor, and that limitation ran from the period when the defendants had dispossessed the former proprietors.

Upon the last point we feel no difficulty. Though the defendants might, by the laches of the former proprietors. have acquired a title good as against them, we think that the plaintiff, as a purchaser at a sale for arrears of revenue coming in under a paramount title under Section 37, Act XI. of 1859, would acquire the estate free from any incumbrance which had accrued upon the estate from such laches, exactly in the same way as he would have acquired the estate free from any incumbrance created by a sale, lease, or mortgage by the former owners.

If, however, the plaintiff's is a mere name, and the real purchasers at the sale for arrears of revenue and the parties now interested and conducting this suit are the former proprietors, we think that we should be bound to treat the case as if the former proprietors were plaintiffs on the record before us.

Now, the effect of the decree in the resumption suit was not to destroy the proprietary right of the lakherajdars. That proprietary right would continue unless and until they should be dispossessed in due course of law. Compare Section 4, Regulation XIX. of 1793, Sections 21 and 22, Regulation II. of 1819. The former possessors of the estate were proprietors while holding the lands lakheraj; they continued proprietors while in possession under the temporary settlement, and they acquired no new title of ownership as proprietors of the land by the permanent settlement which, after the resumption, was made with them in 1862. It may be that a stranger obtaining a settlement of resumed lands by grant from the Government might be treated as having first acquired a right of suit from the date of the settlement; and if nothing had taken place by which a suit by the Government would have been barred, he might be entitled to a period of limitation 12 years from the date of acquisition of right.

But we think that the former propriet obtaining a permanent settlement stand very different position from a person acq ing a new right by the settlement. A c of action—a right of suit to recover posse —had accrued to the former proprietor their ouster before the date of the settlem No new wrong could be done to them. no new right accrued to them in conseq of the settlement.

We are, therefore, of opinion that, in o to arrive at a proper determination of question whether the suit is barred by l tation, the Judge should have inqu whether the plaintiffs hold merely bena for the former proprietors or not.

The onus of proof of this point is, of co upon the defendants.

We think that, in the absence of any p to the contrary, the purchaser at a reve sale must be assumed to be the owner. defendants had an opportunity of adduc evidence as to the alleged benamee hold under the issue as originally framed by Subordinate Judge. As at present advi we do not think it necessary that the J should allow fresh evidence to be reco upon the point. We remand the case order that the Judge may take up the q tion and try it on appeal, using his discretion when he hears the case whether should allow either party to adduce fu evidence.

If the Judge finds that the purchase the plaintiff at the sale for arrears of reve was on his own account, of course the e ing decision in favor of the plaintiff stand.

But if the Judge finds that the purch was made by the Dutts in the name of plaintiff, the question will remain wh the suit is barred by the operation of the years' period of limitation. That is an i which would have been immaterial in the which the Judge took of the case, and probably, therefore, not been fully consid by the Judge. In the event of the J finding the first issue against the plain this question will have to be tried also

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The 25th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Mahomedan Law—Marital agreement—Divorce—Re-marriage.

Case No. 1702 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Tipperah, dated the 7th May 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Ameergaon, dated the 28th August 1869.

Budrunissa Bibee (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Nufeeutoollah (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Moulvie Murhumut Hossein for Appellant.

No one for Respondent.

An agreement entered into by a Mahomedan with his wife at the time they were married that, if he entered into a second marriage during her lifetime without her consent, she would be entitled to divorce herself and take a second husband, was held to be in consonance with the Mahomedan Law.

Jackson, J.—THE plaintiff brought this suit for a declaration that her marriage with her husband was dissolved. She alleged that, at the time she was married to her husband, an agreement was entered into between them, the condition of which was that, if he married another wife without her consent, she would be entitled to divorce herself, and take another husband.

There seems to have been no question before the Lower Courts as to this agreement having taken place. There was an allegation that the second marriage took place with the consent of the first wife. But both the Courts seem to have found that this was not proved. Still both Courts dismissed the plaintiff's suit on the ground that such a condition was against the Mahomedan Law. The Judge says that there are numerous modes in the Mahomedan Law by which a husband can divorce his wife whenever he pleases, but it does not give equal facility to the wife to divorce her husband. The Judge is of opinion that this contract is against the law, and that the plaintiff's suit should be dismissed.

The special appeal to this Court is on the ground that the contract is directly according to the Mahomedan Law. No one has appeared on the part of the special respondent to support the decision of the Lower Court upon this point of law. We have looked into the Mahomedan Law-books. The Judge has stated in his decision that Macnaghten does not allude to the subject. But both the Hedaya and Baillie's Mahomedan Law have special Chapters upon it.

The Hedaya in Book 4, Chapter 3, page 257, lays down as the law that a husband may give power to the wife to divorce herself. "If a husband say to his wife, 'Divorce yourself when you please,' she is at liberty to divorce herself either upon the spot or at any future period, because the word "*when* extends to all times; and hence it is "the same as if he were to say, 'Divorce "yourself at whatever time you like.'"

If this is the correct law, the husband can certainly enter into an agreement with his wife that, if he enter into a second marriage during her lifetime, without her consent, she can divorce herself.

Baillie in Chapter 2, on the subject of Divorce, Section 2, page 218, says:—

"Repudiation is said to be referred to a "time when its effect is postponed from the "time of speaking to some future time specified, without any condition. And repudiation is said to be suspended on, or attached "to, a condition, when it is combined with a "condition, and made contingent on its occurrence. In the former case, repudiation "takes effect immediately on the arrival of "the time to which it has been referred; "in the latter it takes effect on the occurrence of the event on which it has been "made to depend. And revocable as well "as irrevocable repudiations are susceptible "of being referred to a time, or made subject "to a condition. The two kinds of *izafut*, "or reference to a future time with or without a condition, might, therefore, I think, "be treated together; but as they have been "treated separately by the compilers of the "*Futawa Alumgeeree* and other writers on "Mahomedan Law, I follow the same arrangement."

He goes on to show that repudiation may take place either at some future time or in consequence of any particular acts, either on the part of the husband or on the part of the wife.

Looking to these Chapters of the law, we think that the agreement between the parties was not contrary to the Mahomedan Law. But, on the contrary, there are Clauses in the law which are distinctly consonant with such agreement.

We, therefore, set aside the Judge's decision, and decree the plaintiff's suit with all costs.

The 25th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Arbitration-award—Rent—Jurisdiction—Appeal.

Case No. 147 of 1871.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, dated the 16th November 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 19th August 1869.

Altaf Hossein (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Grish Chunder Roy (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Mr. G. A. Twidale for Appellant.

Baboo Rash Beharee Ghose for Respondent.

A Moonsiff has no jurisdiction to entertain an application, and pass an order on the enforcement of an arbitration-award relating to the determination of rent.

When a Moonsiff acts without jurisdiction, the question may be the subject of an appeal to the Appellate Court of the District.

Bayley, J.—THIS was an application for the enforcement of an award made by arbitrators under Section 327, Act VIII. of 1869, on a claim for the determination of rent.

The Moonsiff took jurisdiction, and confirmed the fysullah of the arbitrators. An appeal was made to the Lower Appellate Court on the ground that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction, and the Lower Appellate Court reversed the order made by the Moonsiff, holding that he had no jurisdiction to confirm an arbitration-award relating to revenue-matters.

In special appeal, the first ground taken is that the Lower Appellate Court itself had no jurisdiction to hear the appeal, and the second ground is that the Moonsiff had no jurisdiction in the matter.

On the first ground, we have only to state, when a Moonsiff acts without jurisdiction, the question may be the subject of an appeal to the Appellate Court of the District, for every superior Court is bound t take cognizance of all acts done withi jurisdiction by the Courts subordinate them.

On the second ground, the case turns the original character of the suit. The wo of Section 327 are, "When any matter has b "referred to arbitration without the inter "tion of any Court of justice, and an aw "has been made, any person interested in "award may, within six months from "date of the award, make application to "Court *having jurisdiction in the matter* "*which the award relates*, that the award "filed in Court." Now, the matter which referred to arbitration, and *to which award related*, was the determination of r and the Court *which had jurisdiction* in matter was the Collector's Court, and not Moonsiff's. The application, therefore, co only be made in the Collector's Court if could be made at all, and not in the Moonsi Court. In other words, the Moonsiff h no jurisdiction to entertain such an applicatio and pass an order for the enforcement of t award as he has done, alleging his act to b under the provisions of Sections 325 and 3 of Act VIII. of 1859, the latter of whi Section itself shows that he had no jurisdic tion in this particular case.

We, therefore, dismiss this special appeal but without costs, looking to all the circum stances of the case.

The 25th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Section 27, Act XXIII., 1861—Question of title—Special appeal.

Case No. 1921 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Backergunge, dated the 29th June 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of Mendeegunge, dated the 29th June 1869.

Pachoo Raree and another (Defendants), *Appellants,*

versus

Gooroo Churn Dass (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kashee Kant Sein for Appellants.

Baboo Abinash Chunder Banerjee for Respondent.

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Where a question of title arises in a suit of a nature triable by a Small Cause Court, which must be determined before plaintiff can get a decree, and the Lower Appellate Court fails to determine it, a special appeal is admissible.

Loch, J.—THE plaintiff claiming to be a kanna sharer in a certain howalah brings his action against the defendants whom he describes as kursa ryots, on the following grounds: He says that the defendants hold some land in the howalah; that without any authority they have dug a hole some three cubits deep, and thereby caused damage to the plaintiff; and he therefore prays that the defendants be required to fill up the hole or to pay him Rupees 18-12, which he estimates as his proportionate share of expenses for filling it up. The defendants admit the superior title of the plaintiff and the fact that they have dug a hole as stated by him, but they plead a pottah from the plaintiff's father under which they are entitled to make such an excavation as they have now made.

The first Court found that the pottah put in by the defendants was not proven, and that they had no right whatever to excavate as they pretended, and that the plaintiff's share of the costs for filling it up would amount to Rupees 5-10, and he gave plaintiff a decree for that amount "as compensation of "damage"—with costs in proportion to the claim decreed.

On appeal, the Subordinate Judge affirmed the judgment of the Court below, holding that the defendants had, without any right, sunk an excavation in the plaintiff's land, and thereby caused damage to him.

The Subordinate Judge has not apparently entered into the defendants' case, and determined whether the pottah adduced by them was genuine or not; nor, if genuine, whether it gave them any right to dig in the manner they have done.

The case has come up in special appeal, and a preliminary objection to hearing it is made that, as the suit was one of a nature triable by Small Cause Court, *viz.*, for damages, and being of a value under Rupees 500, no special appeal would lie under the provisions of Section 27, Act XXIII. of 1861; and in support of this allegation two cases decided by this Court were quoted. The first is reported at page 130 of 10 Weekly Reporter. There the Chief Justice says: "The plaint asks for "one of two things, either that the defendant "may be ordered to fill up the excavation at "his expense, or that the plaintiff may have "Rupees 25 as damages. The latter alternative is one entirely within the jurisdiction "of the Small Cause Court. The plaintiff is "not, we think, entitled to a decree for the performance of the specific act, but only to the "alternative relief sought by him. It is, therefore, a suit for damages, and the Small Cause "Court cannot be ousted of its jurisdiction "merely by asking for an alternative relief to "which the plaintiff is not entitled. In this "view, the Principal Sudder Ameen was "correct in saying that the suit is one which "is cognizable by the Small Cause Court." The above judgment is given at length, as the facts, so far as they are stated, correspond in some respects to the facts admitted in this case; but in the absence of the pleadings we cannot admit it as sufficient to rule the case before us, for we do not know whether in that case any question of adverse title was set up, as there has been in the present case.

The other case is reported at page 127 of the Special Number of the Weekly Reporter, and is a Full Bench Ruling to the effect that Small Cause Courts have jurisdiction to try questions of title which incidentally arise in suits cognizable by them—a ruling in which we quite concur; and it is because we find that the question of title raised in this case has not been properly disposed of that we consider a special appeal is admissible. We have been referred to certain other reported cases, but these do not assist us. It has been held by the High Court of Bombay that where a suit appears from the plaint to be one of a nature cognizable in a Court of Small Causes, but a question of title has been gone into and decided by the District Court in appeal, a special appeal will lie—2 Bombay Reports, page 4, Dekchit *versus* Dekchit.

The converse of this has happened in the present case. A question of title has arisen which must be determined before the plaintiff can get a decree, and the Lower Appellate Court has failed to determine it.

We think, therefore, that a special appeal is admissible under these circumstances, and we remand the case to the Lower Appellate Court to come to a distinct finding from the evidence on the record in the case put forward by the defendant; 1st—whether the pottah adduced by the defendants is genuine; and 2nd—whether, if it be, it gives them either directly or impliedly a right to make excavations; and to dispose of the case according to the finding he may come to. The costs of this appeal to follow the result.

Paul, J.—I concur.

The 25th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Registration—Determination of value—Section 17, Act XX. of 1866.

Case No. 1733 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Judge of Moorshedabad, dated the 27th May 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Gowas, dated the 31st January 1871.

Rohinee Debia and another (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Shib Chunder Chatterjee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboo Rajendro Nath Bose for Appellants.

Baboo Mutee Lall Mookerjee for Respondent.

The necessity for registration must be determined by the value of the consideration stated in the deed.

Ainslie, J.—PLAINTIFF sues on a conveyance, dated 1st Magh 1275. Defendant, among other pleas, urged that the document was inadmissible in evidence for want of registration, the actual value of the property to which it refers being above Rupees 100, although the consideration stated in the deed is below that amount.

The Moonsiff held that the necessity for registration must be determined by the value stated in the instrument, and overruled the objection.

On appeal the Judge took the opposite view, and finding the market-value to be considerably above Rupees 100, he rejected the document, and dismissed the suit.

The plaintiff now in special appeal contends that the view taken by the Moonsiff was the correct one.

The law in force at the date of the disputed conveyance was Act XX. of 1866, by the 17th Section of which it is enacted that "the instruments next hereinafter mentioned "shall be registered * * * * "(that is to say) * * * * "2. Instruments (other than an instru-"ment of gift) which purport or operate to "create, declare, limit, assign, or extinguish, "whether in present or in future, any right, "title, or interest, whether vested or contingent, of the value of 100 rupees and "upwards, to or in immoveable property."

By Section 49, it is further enacted that "no instrument required by Section 17 "be registered shall be received in evidence "in any civil proceeding in any Court, "shall be acted on by any public servant, "defined in the Indian Penal Code, or shall "affect any property comprised therein, unless it shall have been registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act."

In the earlier Registration Act, No. XVI of 1864, there were similar provisions to the above in Section 13. That Act also contained another provision in Section 14 as follows, which has been omitted in the later Act: "For the purposes of this Act, the "value of any right, title, or interest in any "immoveable property, created, declared, "transferred, or extinguished by any instru-"ment, shall be taken to be the value indi-"cated by the stamp affixed thereto or im-"pressed thereon under Act X. of 1862, "under any other Act for the time being in "force for regulating the stamp-duties."

A similar provision is to be found in the table of fees prepared in accordance with Section 86, Act XX. of 1866, but there is nothing to this effect in the Act itself. The omission, however, is not, in my opinion, at all material, because there is nothing in the Act to show that it was intended to do away with any restriction resulting from this Section in the earlier Act.

On comparing Acts XVI. of 1864, XX of 1866, and VIII. of 1871, it will be seen that in all of them the words "purport or operate" are used without distinction both in regard to interests in immoveable property of the value of 100 rupees and upwards, and to interests in such property of the value of less than 100 rupees, and also in regard to moveable property without reference to value. It, therefore, seems to me that the word "operate" must be read as used in a sense common to all these three classes of property. The value being omitted from the last, it cannot be said that "operate" in the Clauses referring thereto* is to be read in connection with value; but if we read "operate" in connection with "to create, declare, &c.," and independently of value, all difficulty

* Clause 4, Sec. 16, Act XVI., 1864.
Clause 5, Sec. 18, Act XX, 1866.
Clause 5, Sec. 18, Act VIII., 1871.

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hes. I think it is clear that "operate" be taken as used in contradistinc- to "purport," as referring only to the of "creating, declaring, assigning, ng, or extinguishing" a title and in- and not to the extent of such inter-

this view is correct, the omission of n 14, Act XVI. of 1864, in the later s of no importance.

ot only is there nothing in the terms of law to require that any enquiry as to l value of an interest in immoveable rty affected by an unregistered instru- should precede its admission in evi- e, but I think there is nothing to war- such an enquiry. Certainly, such an iry would be extremely inconvenient, would introduce into many cases colla- issues which often could lead to no- . Who shall say whether the true of a property is 99 rupees or 101? e may be no difficulty where one side forward a nominal value of 50 rupees, the other proves a probable value of o. But the remedy is not by excluding document, but by using the inadequacy onsideration as an element in the evi- e of *mala fides*. In this supposed case, d the party who propounded the docu- t be any the better or his adversary worse, if the document were actually tered under Section 18?

he following passage from Story's Equity isprudence, Volume I., page 276, appears e to indicate very clearly the difficulties Courts would be thrown into if the doc- that evidence of value could be ten- d to exclude an unregistered deed were pted. Section 245—"Inadequacy of con- deration then of itself is not a distinct inciple of relief in equity. The Common aw knows no such principle. The consi- eration, be it more or less, supports the con- act. Common sense knows no such prin- ciple. The value of a thing is what it will oduce, and it admits of no precise stand- rd. It must be in its nature fluctuating, nd will depend on ten thousand different ircumstances. One man, in the disposal f his property, may sell it for less than nother would. He may sell it under a pres- ure of circumstances which may induce him to part with it at a particular time. If Courts of equity were to unravel all transactions, they would throw everything into confusion, and set afloat the contracts "of mankind. Such a consequence would "of itself be sufficient to show the inconve- "nience and impracticability, if not the in- "justice, of adopting the doctrine that mere "inadequacy of consideration should form a "distinct ground for relief."

It may well happen that a man under pressure may consent to take 90 for what, if free from pressure, he would not sell for 150. Still the value to him at the time would be the 90 he could get at once, and not what the purchaser, under other circumstances, might be tempted to give. The purchaser having obtained the property, may, in his turn, value it at 150.

Having thus two valuations, which are we to select? Clearly the value at which the property actually changed hands, supposing the transaction to be *bonâ fide*. If not a *bonâ-fide* one, registration will not make it unimpeachable.

The rule, then, in my opinion, is that followed by the first Court. The necessity for registration is determined by the stated consideration. Inadequacy of consideration, so far as it can be considered at all, can only be considered with reference to the *bona fides* of the transaction.

I would, therefore, decree this appeal, and remand the case to the Judge for trial on the merits.

Loch, J.—I think the view of the law taken by my colleague is correct. The inconvenience which would arise if the view of the law taken by the Judge be correct is inconceivable. In every case the admission of an unregistered document as evidence might be opposed on the ground that it operated to create a title of a value exceeding Rupees 100, though the consideration entered therein is below that sum; and thus a contention foreign to the question at issue between the parties would arise. I am quite alive to the difficulty which arises from the wording of the law; but when we consider that the value of a thing depends very much on the circumstances which attend the sale, and not on the intrinsic value of the thing sold; that the circumstances of the seller may be such that he is willing to sell, for a comparatively low sum, property which, when the purchaser acquires, he estimates at a much higher value, I think we must accept the consideration entered in the deed as sufficient to determine the question whether the unregistered docu-

ment is or is not admissible in evidence. In support of his argument, the pleader for the special appellant referred to the provisions of Section 14 of the former Registration Act, XVI. of 1864, and to the table of fees prepared under the 86th Section of Act XX. of 1866. That Section is to the effect that the value of any right shall be taken to be the value indicated by the stamp affixed thereto or impressed thereon; but the provisions of this Section were enacted for carrying out the purposes of the Act so as to enable the registration-officers to determine the amount of the fees to be paid on registration, and it does not assist us in determining the question before us.

I think with my colleague that the case should be remanded for trial on the merits. Costs of this appeal to follow the result of the trial.

The 26th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges*.

Putneedars—Zemindars—Arrears of rent—Payment into Court—Notice—Sale—Regulation VIII. of 1819.

Case No. 253 of 1869.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Tipperah, dated the 3rd August 1869.

Kristo Mohun Shaha and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants*,

versus

Moonshee Aftabooddeen Mahomed and others (Defendants), *Respondents*.

Baboos Unnoda Pershad Banerjee and *Chunder Madhub Ghose* for Appellants.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter, *Kalee Mohun Dass*, and *Sreenath Banerjee* for Respondents.

An instalment of rent having been due from certain putneedars, a proclamation was issued under the provision of Regulation VIII. of 1819 fixing the day of sale. Before that day, a sum of money sufficient to cover the arrears was deposited in the Collectorate by one of the putneedars, the payment being made to the Collect accountant, who gave a receipt for it; but no intim of the payment was given to the Collector. Acc ingly, the sale proceeded, and the putneedars now s have it annulled.

HELD (Mitter, J., *dissentiente*) that there is no in Regulation VIII., 1819, which empowers a put to make a deposit either in the Judge's Court the Collectorate before the day of sale, or which to such payment, if made, the effect of a pay the zemindar or his agent, and that plaintiffs h ground to ask relief on any principle of equity.

An application for the sale of a tenure wh right of sale has been specially reserved with a to the realization of rent is quite distinct from a proceedings thereon being more nearly analog the remedy by distress.

It is not competent to a defendant to bring m into Court privately and secretly on an *ex-parte* ap tion without notice to plaintiff either before or payment.

Mitter, J.—I AM of opinion that a needar, whose tenure has been adver for sale by the Collector under the p sions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, is titled to pay to that officer the amoun arrears claimed from him by the zemin and that such a payment, if duly m within the period of the notice issued u the second and third Clauses of the Section of that Regulation, is a legal bar the sale.

I take it to be an undisputed proposi of law that a person, who is sued in a Co of justice for a specific sum of money entitled to bring that money into Court gether with the costs incurred by the pl iff up to the date of the payment, and such a payment, if *duly* made, is suffic to put a stop to all further proceedi against him and his property upon the s cause of action. The question is, there whether a payment to the Collector b putneedar whose tenure has been adver for sale under the provisions of Re lation VIII. of 1819 is entitled to be m ed in the same category as a "pay into Court" within the meaning of above proposition.

I am of opinion that this question o to be answered in the affirmative.

Clause 1, Section 8, authorizes zemindar to apply for the periodical s of putnee tenures held under them, order to realize any arrears of rent may be due to them from the put dars.

Clauses 2 and 3 enact that, on the day of Bysack or of Kartick in each ye

zemindar *shall present a petition* to Civil Court of the district and a *ilar one* to the Collector *containing a ification of the balance due to him the putneedar;* that the said petition be thereupon stuck up in a conspi- us part of the cutcherry, together with otice that, if *the amount of the demand not paid* before the first of Jyet or the of Aughun, as the case may be, *the re of the defaulter will be sold in idation;* and that a similar notice be sent to the mofussil for the due ice of which the zemindar is to be d responsible.

ection 9 declares that the sale shall made in the public cutcherry by the istrar of the Civil Court in a certain ified manner.

ection 10 says: "A person shall attend the part of the zemindar with a parti- ar statement of the payments made up the day of sale, on account of the ance of each advertized lot, together h the receipt for, or certificate of, the tice directed to be published in the ofussil, nor shall any lot be put up to le until the statement produced shall ve been inspected, and the existence of balance for the year ascertained therefrom, or until the receipt for the notice shall ve been read, the observance of which rms shall be recorded in a separate pro- eding to be held upon each lot sold. the sale be of the description provided in the 3rd Clause of Section 8, the bundee of the defaulter shall be like- e produced in order that it may be n that the balance remaining unpaid ceeds a four-anna proportion of the de- nd up to the date of sale."

lause 1, Section 13, speaks of the injury might be done to the inferior tenantry the putneedar withholding the rents due e zemindar, and the propriety of afford- them some means to save their tenures preventing the sale.

Clause 2 provides that, whenever the ure of a talookdar of the first degree advertized for sale, it shall be compe- to the talookdars of the second ree, or any number of them, to stay the l sale *by paying into Court* the amount balance due, or even by lodging money tecedently for the purpose of eventually swering any demand that may remain e on the day fixed for the sale.

Clause 1, Section 14, declares: "Should "the balance claimed by the zemindar re- "main unpaid upon the day fixed for the "sale, the sale shall be made without re- "serve in the manner provided for in Sec- "tions 9 and 10 of the Regulation; nor "shall it be stayed or postponed on any ac- "count unless the *amount of the demand* "*be lodged.*"

Clause 2 enacts: "In cases *also* in "which a talookdar may contest the "zemindar's demand of any arrear as speci- "fied in the notice advertized, such "talookdar shall be competent to apply for "*summary investigation at any time* "within the period of notice. The zemin- "dar shall then be called upon to furnish "his kubooleut and other proofs at the "shortest convenient notice, in order *that* "*the award* may, if possible, be made before "the day appointed for sale. *Such award,* "*if so made, will, of course, regulate the* "*ulterior process;* but if the case be still "pending, the lot shall be called up in its "turn notwithstanding *the suit;* and if the "zemindar or his agent insist on the de- "mand, the sale shall be made on his re- "sponsibility, nor shall it be stayed or the "summary suit allowed to proceed unless "the amount claimed be lodged in cash or "Government securities by the talookdar "contesting the demand; and if such "deposit be not made, the putneedar will "have no remedy but by a regular action "for damages and for a reversal of the "sale."

The above provisions are, in my opinion, sufficient to show that a proceeding under Regulation VIII. of 1819 is, in fact, a summary suit for rent instituted in a Court of justice, although it is required to be dealt with in a somewhat peculiar manner. Indeed, the very word "Court" is expressly used in Clause 2 of Section 13; and as the functions which the Civil Court of the district or the Registrar of that Court had to perform under the Regulation as it originally stood have been all vested in the Collector by subsequent legislation, the *cutcherry* of that officer must be necessarily regarded as a "Court" within the meaning of that Clause, and therefore within the meaning of the Regulation itself. The expressions "amount claimed," "amount of the demand," frequently used in the Sections cited above, clearly show that the zemindar is the plaintiff in the suit, and we must, therefore, look upon the petition filed by him under

Clauses 2 and 3 of Section 8 as the plaint by which that suit is commenced. Indeed, the very expression "summary suit" is distinctly used in Clause 2, Section 14; and if it is once admitted that the proceeding is a summary suit, a payment to the Collector would stand precisely in the same category as a payment to any other Court of justice in any other suit for money.

It has been argued that Clause 2, Section 14, refers to cases in which the putneedar has come forward to contest the zemindar's demand, and that it would be, therefore, improper to characterize the proceeding in an uncontested case as a summary suit within the meaning of that Clause. This objection is not entitled, in my opinion, to any weight whatever. In the first place, it is clear that even in uncontested cases the Collector is bound, under the express provisions of Section 10, to enquire whether there is an arrear or not, although the enquiry is directed to be confined in such cases to the mere inspection of the accounts produced by the zemindar, who alone is answerable for their authenticity. Conceding, however, that an enquiry of this sort is not, strictly speaking, such as is ordinarily made by a judicial tribunal, the character of the proceeding would still remain the same. That proceeding must be supposed to have commenced with the petition filed under the 2nd and 3rd Clauses of Section 8; and it is upon that petition, treated as a plaint, that the Collector has to make his award under Clause 2 of Section 14, for there is no provision in the Regulation which requires the presentation of any other plaint or petition on the part of the zemindar. The mere fact that the putneedar has not come forward to deny the truth of the zemindar's claim cannot alter the character of the proceeding from what it was at the time of its original institution. It was a suit at its commencement when the zemindar's petition was filed, and it must consequently retain the character of a suit until it is terminated either by an award under Clause 2, Section 14, or by a sale held in the mode prescribed in the robokaree required to be recorded by the concluding words of Section 10. If the defendant in the suit is desirous of having a summary investigation, he is entitled to have it by the express terms of the Regulation; but in a case in which no such investigation is asked for, the Legislature could well afford to dispense with its necessity, for an appeal to the Civil Court in the shape of a regular suit is after all the only ultimate remedy in either case. An undefended suit is just much a suit as a defended one, and the fact that the Legislature has laid down different modes for their disposal can make any difference whatever in the determination of the question now under consideration.

Every contested case, it is clear, must regarded as a summary suit under the press wording of Clause 2, Section 14; as the position of the putneedar in such case is precisely the same as that of a defendant in a suit for money, there can no doubt whatever that he is entitled to his tenure from sale by paying to the Collector the full amount of rent due from to the zemindar, provided that the payment is *duly* made within the period of the notice which has been so often referred to. If on the day of sale, it is competent to him to get the sale stayed or postponed by "lodging" the amount in cash or Government securities under the provisions of Clause Section 14; and it is to be further borne mind that there is nothing in the language of that Clause to support the contention that the said amount cannot be so lodged on a previous date, although it falls within the period of notice. It has been suggested, the decision of the late Sudder Court,* relied upon by the Subordinate Judge in this case, that there is a wide distinction between paying money into Court and "lodging money in Court." Both the expressions, however, are used in Clause 2, Section 13, and the only distinction that I can find between them is that the one refers to an unconditional payment, whilst the other refers to a mere deposit, or, in other words, to a payment clogged with conditions dependent upon some contingent event; as, for instance, the completion of the award referred to in Clause Section 14; the non-payment of the balance by the putneedar up to the date fixed for the sale, &c. But this distinction cannot affect the question in any manner whatever. Suppose, for instance, that an award is made under Clause 2, Section 14. Suppose that it is made some days before the day fixed for the sale. If, in such a case, the putneedar can save his tenure from sale by lodging the amount claimed in the Collector's office even so late as the day fixed for the sale, can he not do the same thing by lodging it in the same place on an earlier day not beyond the period

* S. D. A. for 1859, p. 521.

otice? And if the amount can be so ed conditionally on any day within that od, can it not be paid unconditionally e same functionary, whether before or the date of the award above referred to? we allow, then, that a payment to the ector, if made within the period of notice, legal bar to the sale in contested cases, reason have we to come to a different lusion upon the validity of such pay- ts in uncontested cases? Can it be osed for one moment that the Legislature intended that a dishonest defaulter, who come forward with a false denial of his lord's claim, should enjoy greater faci- s for paying the arrears, than one who come forward with an honest admission s truth, and who is perfectly ready and ng to pay into Court the full amount rent claimed to be due from him? ording to such a contention, all that a eedar would have to do in order to give ity to the payment would be to start a false repudiation of his liability, and n, therefore, of opinion that it is entitled o weight whatever.

hat a direct payment to the Collector rds an invaluable security to the putnee- is evident, not only from the fact of its g a payment in a public office, but also the very nature of the proceeding itself. zemindar may insist upon the sale by diating any private payments made to elf or to his authorized agent; and s the putneedar is in a position to se- a favorable award before the date of he must submit to his property being by the Collector, although he is enti- to bring a regular suit for the reversal e sale. Why, then, are we to suppose the Legislature intended to deprive of the above security at the very when it was arming the Collector with plenary powers on behalf of the zemin- ? It is true that money paid to the ector does not immediately pass to the indar's hands, but besides that the latter lways at liberty to draw it with the possible delay, it is beyond all dispute a little inconvenience of this kind is inevitable lot of every person who is ged to resort to a Court of justice or ny other public authority for the reco- of his dues.

lause 2, Section 13, gives power to the okdars of inferior degree to pay the ount into Court or even to lodge it ante- ently, but the inconvenience suffered by the zemindar in the case of such a payment is precisely the same as in the case of a payment made by a putneedar. It is true that the putneedar is bound to pay his rent directly to the zemindar before he is actually sued for it; but after a suit has been once commenced, there is no reason whatever why he should be deprived of a privilege which is every day exercised by a defendant in an ordinary suit for money.

It has been argued that there is no express provision in Regulation VIII. of 1819, authorizing a direct payment to the Collector. I am by no means prepared to admit the correctness of this argument even as far as it goes. The wording of the notice issued under the 2nd and 3rd Clauses of the Regulation appears to me to be a sufficient authority for such a payment. That notice is issued by the Collector, and it simply tells the putneedar that, if the amount *claimed be not paid* within a fixed date, his tenure will be sold in liquidation. In the absence, therefore, of any specific directions as to the person to whom, or the place where, the payment is to be made, the putneedar would be fully justified, in my opinion, to pay directly to the very officer by whom the notice is issued. That the tenure can be saved from sale even in uncontested cases by lodging the amount in the Collectorate seems to be pretty clear from the provisions of Clause 1, Section 14. The provision made for contested cases in Clause 2 of that Section is a mere amplification, as is clearly shown by the use of the word "also;" and if we admit that the putneedar is entitled even in an uncontested case to save his property by lodging the amount, there seems to be no reason why he should not be permitted to do so by "paying it" unconditionally as the amount of arrears admittedly due from him. I do not mean to say that there is anything in the language of the notice above referred to to show that a direct payment to the zemindar or his agent would not be just as valid in law as a payment to the Collector, but I think that the putneedar is fully entitled to say that that language is, at any rate, sufficient to justify both sorts of payment. It is beyond all question that a payment in Court, after legal proceedings have once commenced, is much more favored by public policy than a payment out of Court, as may be seen from the provisions of Section 206, Act VIII. of 1859. The publicity attached to the first kind of payment is almost a sure guarantee against further litigation

upon the same cause of action, and there is no reason whatever for thinking that the framers of Regulation VIII. of 1819 intended to deprive the putneedar of that guarantee by the adoption of a contrary policy, when the sole object of the proceeding directed to be held by that Regulation was to enable the zemindar to realize his rents with facility.

But even if it is conceded that there is no express provision in Regulation VIII. of 1819 authorizing a direct payment to the Collector, it must be admitted on the other hand that there is no express provision to the contrary; and the case must, therefore, fall within the operation of the general principle enunciated at the commencement of this judgment in regard to payments in Court. No express provision was necessary in the case of the putneedar, who is, in fact, the defendant in the suit, and against whom directly the zemindar's claim is brought. The case of the dur-putneedars referred to in Section 13 stands on a quite different footing. They are not parties to the proceeding which is one entirely between the zemindar and his tenant, the putneedar, and it was, therefore, necessary to make some special provision for the protection of their interests, they being not in a position, as third parties, to avail themselves of the general principle above referred to. Such a provision would have been superfluous in the case of the putneedar; and as the object of the Legislature in making that provision was to protect the dur-putneedars from the consequences of the putneedar's default, the extension of a similar privilege to the latter would be nothing but an additional step in the same direction. If the putneedar is not allowed to pay to the Collector, the consequences would be as injurious to him as to his under-tenants; for the Collector is bound to proceed with the sale without reserve, even in cases in which the rent has been actually paid to the zemindar, if the latter chooses to repudiate such payment on the day appointed for the sale, and the dur-putneedars are not in a position to pay the amount. It is clear, therefore, that the security afforded by a payment in a public office is as necessary for the protection of the putneedar as for that of the dur-putneedars; so that the existence of a special provision in favor of the latter rather goes to strengthen the position which I have been seeking to establish.

Some stress has been laid upon the w of Section 10, which say that a person s be present on the part of the zemin with a particular *statement of the p ments made up to the day of* But these words merely go to show th private payment to the zemindar himse not prohibited by the Regulation, and such a payment would be sufficient to the sale if the zemindar would choose adjust it. Suppose, for instance, that zemindar is living at a great distance the district in which the proceeding is stituted, which must be the district which the putnee is situated. Suppose, that he has got no one in that district authorized to receive payments on his half. The agent required to be presen the day of sale need not be authorize receive such payments, for he is requ merely to produce a statement showing payments made up to the date of sale the day of sale is near at hand, and if is no time left to enable the putneedar t and pay his rent directly to the zemin is the Collector to sell his property, alth he is perfectly ready and willing to down the entire amount then and there even on an earlier date? It is true th debtor is bound to pay his debt as soon becomes due, and that it is for him to his creditor for the purpose of making payment; but these reasons can be sc ly urged in support of the contention the putneedar is to lose his property public sale, if he is ready and willin pay the full amount due from him to very officer by whom that sale is to made. The notice issued under Clause and 3 of Section 8 gives him a full mo time to pay; but if we deny him the vilege of paying to the Collector, the re would be, in some cases at least, to dep him of the full benefit of that period.

Suppose, again, that the full amount the claim is offered to the zemindar in first instance, and the zemindar refuse receive it. Can it be contended that e in such a case the putneedar would not competent to pay it to the Collector, thereby to save his tenure from the th tened sale? Such a contention would in my opinion, absurd on the face of and yet the same arguments which can brought forward in this case might be urg with equal force in support of it.

The only other light in which we c possibly regard the Collector is that of

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ent of the zemindar, appointed by the for the realization of his dues from the needar. But in such a view, a payment he Collector would stand precisely in the e position as a direct payment to the indar himself, particularly when it is de after the issue of a notice like that scribed by Clauses 2 and 3 of Section 8.

The next question which we have to termine in this case is whether the payent relied upon by the plaintiffs was duly de or otherwise.

That it was made within the prescribed e is not disputed, nor has any question n raised as to the sufficiency of the ount.

The plaintiffs allege that they paid the ney to the accountant of the Collectorate, was authorized, according to the tice prevailing therein, to receive such ments; and that they have got a receipt ch they have filed in evidence. This reit consists of a duplicate challan containa full specification of the object for which payment was made, and an endorsement the back of it under the seal of the lector acknowledging the receipt of the ney. The defendants contend that this de of payment was irregular, and that plaintiffs ought not to derive any benefit n it, particularly when they took no s whatever to give any notice of the ment either to the Collector or to the indar. The accountant of the Collector has been made a defendant in this case, the plea set up by him is that it was no t of his duty to inform the Collector of payment.

This part of the case, however, has been gone into by the Subordinate ge. He says: "They (the plaintiffs) o not pretend that they are covered by e putnee sale-law of 1819, No. 8, mak g the deposit at the Collectorate before e sale. All they say is this—that it was e custom at the Collectorate to receive ch deposits from defaulting putneedars d to stop the sale; and that they had ade the deposit in conformity to the stom. But no custom, however long ractised, could justify the violation of e law."

I have already shown that there was no lation of law in this case; and if the tom of the Collectorate was as it is resented by the plaintiffs, there seems to be no reason whatever why they should not get the full benefit of the payment. Whether we look upon the Collector as a judicial officer presiding over a Court of justice in which a summary suit for rent has been instituted by the zemindar, or as an agent of the latter, it seems to be equally clear that the plaintiffs ought not to suffer for having acted in conformity to a custom prevailing in his office. I would, therefore, send this case back to the Subordinate Judge under the provisions of Section 354 of the Civil Procedure Code for the purpose of enquiring into the following points, namely:—

1st.—What was the customary mode prevalent in the Collectorate of Tipperah with reference to the receipt of moneys paid by putneedars whose tenures were advertized for sale under Regulation VIII. of 1819.

2ndly.—Whether the plaintiffs were bound, according to that custom, to do anything more than what they have done in order to *complete* the payment relied upon by them in this case.

3rdly.—Whether the accountant of the Collectorate had any authority to receive that payment, and whether he or any other amlah on the Collector's establishment was bound, according to the customary routine of his duties, to give notice of it to the Collector in order to stop the sale.

4thly.—Whether the said payment came to the knowledge, or received the sanction of the Collector at any time before the sale.

The most important evidence on these points is likely to come from the Collectorate itself; but the parties ought to be allowed to produce any evidence they may think proper.

Macpherson, J.—The object of this suit is to set aside a sale of a putnee tenure which was sold under Regulation VIII of 1819 for arrears of rent claimed by the zemindar; and the question at issue seems to me to turn very much on the construction to be put upon certain Sections of that Regulation.

Regulation VIII. of 1819 enacts (Section 8, Clause 2) that a zemindar who has a right to sell a putnee tenure for an arrear of rent may, on the first of Bysack (*i. e.*, at the commencement of the year following that of which the rent is due), present a petition to the Collector containing a speci-

fication of any balances due to him for the expired year: "the same shall then be stuck "up in some conspicuous part of the "cutcherry, with a notice that, if the amount "claimed *be not paid* before the first of Jyet "following, the tenures of the defaulters "will on that day be sold." A similar notice is to be stuck up in the sudder cutcherry of the zemindar, and to be also sent into the mofussil, and served there as directed.

By Section 10, at the time of the sale, a person shall attend on the part of the zemindar with a particular statement *of the payments made up to the day of sale* on account of the balance of each advertized lot, "nor shall any lot be put up to sale until "the statement produced shall have been "inspected and the existence of a balance "for the year ascertained *therefrom, &c.*" "*The zemindar shall be exclusively re-* "*sponsible for the correctness and authenti-* "*city of the papers to be thus exhibited,* "*nor shall the public officer making the* "*sale be answerable in any respect,* except "for its fairness and publicity, and for the "observance of the rules prescribed for his "guidance in this Regulation."

Section 11 declares that tenures sold for default shall be sold free of incumbrances created by the defaulter. But in order to protect holders of under-tenures, such as dur-putneedars and the like, Section 13 gives them the right to save the putnee from sale *by paying into Court* the arrear due. Clause 2 of Section 13 provides that "the talook- "dars of the second degree, or any number "of them, shall be entitled to stay the final "sale, *by paying into Court* the amount of "balance that may be declared due by the "person attending on the part of the zemin- "dar on the day appointed for sale; in like "manner, they shall be entitled to *lodge* "*money* antecedently, for the purpose of "eventually answering any demand that "may remain due on the day fixed for the "sale; and should the amount *lodged* be "sufficient, the sale shall not proceed," &c.

The whole of Section 13 treats exclusively of the protection of holders of under-tenures and the remedies of that class of persons.

Section 14 provides (Clause 1) that, should the balance claimed by the zemindar *remain unpaid* upon the day fixed for the sale of the tenure, the sale shall be made without reserve, "nor shall it be stayed or post- "poned on any account, unless the amount "of the demand *be lodged.*" Any one, however, desirous of contesting the right of the zemindar to make the sale, whether on the ground of there having been no balance due or any other ground, may sue the zemindar for a reversal of the sale; the purchaser is to be made a party in any such suit, and shall (if the sale be reversed) be indemnified against all loss, at the charge of the zemindar or person at whose suit the sale may have been made.

Clause 2 of Section 14 is as follows: "In cases *also in which a talookdar* (or putnee- "needar) may contest the zemindar's de- "mand of any arrear as specified in the "notice advertized, such talookdar shall be "competent to apply for a summary inves- "tigation at any time within the period of "notice. * * * * * If the case be "still pending, the lot shall be called up in "its turn, notwithstanding the suit; and if "the zemindar or his agent in attendance "insist on the demand, the sale shall be "made on his responsibility, nor shall it be "stayed, or the summary suit be allowed "to proceed, *unless the amount claimed* "*lodged* in cash * * * by the talook- "dar," &c.

In the case now before us, the facts are that, after the sale had taken place, apparently in the manner prescribed by law, it turned out that the putneedars had some days before the sale paid into the office of the Collector the amount of arrear specified by the zemindar in his notice of sale. So far, however, as the evidence goes, the putneedars gave no notice to the Collector, or to the zemindar or his agent, that they had made any payment into Court. Both the Collector and the person attending the sale on behalf of the zemindar were, at the time of the sale, entirely unaware that any such payment had been made, as also was the purchaser. The plaint contains various allegations of fraud, notice, refusal of money tendered, and the like; but no evidence has been given in support of those allegations.

For the putneedars, it is contended that the money having been brought into Court there was no balance due at the time of sale, and therefore the sale ought to be reversed.

For the zemindar and purchaser, it is contended (and as it appears to me rightly) that the putneedars are not entitled to insist the payment of the money into Court as payment to the zemindar, and that, therefore

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balance claimed by the zemindar did main unpaid at the time of sale, which sequently cannot be impeached.

agree in the opinion that a zemindar's tion and notice of his intention to sell der Section 8 of Regulation VIII. of 1819 not in any legal sense a "suit," and I think that a payment into Court with notice to the person entitled to receive money is no payment to that person, in absence of any law declaring that it be deemed to be payment to him.

There is nothing in Regulation VIII. of 9 which either expressly or impliedly clares that a payment such as the putnees in this case made shall be deemed to payment to the zemindar. It is expressly lared that "talookdars of the second ree" may stay the sale by *paying into rt* the money declared due on the day ale, or *lodging* or *depositing* the money *cedently* for the purpose of eventually vering any demand that may remain due the day fixed for sale (inasmuch as it has decided that "talookdars of the second ree" are *bound* to bring the money into urt, and are not entitled to pay direct to zemindar (see 6 Weekly Reporter 84); there is no such declaration as rends putneedars or talookdars of the first ree. On the contrary, the language of gulation VIII. shows rather that the only in which it was contemplated that the needar was to bring the money into Court that provided for in Clause 2 of Section the case of the zemindar's demand being tested, and the putneedar applying for a mary investigation.

By Clause 2 of Section 8, the original ice informs the putneedar that his tenure be sold if the amount claimed is not before the appointed day, but nothing aid as to bringing the money into Court, payment in the ordinary fashion is alone ntemplated.

By Section 10, it is the zemindar's agent o is at the time of sale to state the *payts made* up to that day; and the agent's tement is to be inspected, and the existce of a balance ascertained *therefrom;* zemindar is exclusively responsible for the rectness of the statement; and the officer nducting the sale is responsible only for blicity and fairness and observance of scribed rules. All these provisions evintly contemplate payments being made to the zemindar. If payments into Court had been contemplated, the provisions of this Section must have been different, and we certainly should expect to find the Court declared responsible for them.

Then come the rules allowing the dur-putneedars, &c., to save themselves by paying the money *into Court*. These rules are immediately followed by Clause 1 of Section 14, which is much relied on for the appellants. As to this Clause, I think that its proper interpretation is that the sale is not to be "stayed or postponed on any account, unless the amount of the demand be *lodged*" in the sense in which alone the word *lodged* is used in Regulation VIII., *i. e.*, *lodged* by a "talookdar of the second degree" under the provisions of Section 13, or *lodged* by a putneedar applying for a summary investigation under Clause 2 of Section 14. The word *lodged*, as used in Clause 1 of Section 14, has, to my mind, no legal meaning save such as is to be gathered from the use of the word in Section 13 and in Clause 2 of Section 14.

If the word "*lodged*" in Clause 1 of Section 14 is read in this limited sense, there is absolutely no ground for saying that Regulation VIII. anywhere contemplated the putneedar's bringing into Court the arrears claimed by the zemindar except in the one case provided for by Clause 2 of Section 14. There being thus nothing in the Regulation which makes a payment into Court of itself a payment to the zemindar, I think it is impossible to say that, under the circumstances which occurred in this instance, the balance claimed by the zemindar did not "remain unpaid upon the day fixed for the sale."

I further am of opinion that, whatever the ordinary practice of the Collector's office may have been, this sale cannot now be set aside if it was made strictly in accordance with law. The existence of a loose or irregular practice in the Collectorate will not entitle us to reverse this particular sale if it was in itself regularly held, and if there is no evidence of anything fraudulently or wrongly done by the purchaser or by the zemindar. It is said that the position of the putneedars is one of great hardship. But I do not see that this is so. It is not now for the first time that it is held that putneedars are bound to deal directly with their zemindars, and are not entitled to pay the balance claimed into Court. In 1859, Clauses

1 and 2 of Section 14 of Regulation VIII. of 1819 were construed by the Sudder Court in the same sense in which I would now construe them (S. D. A., 1859, page 521). Then the *laches* of the putneedars throughout has been most remarkable.

No doubt, in the course of this suit, the existence of a very loose and improper practice in the office of the Collector has been disclosed. In the first place, the office received a balance which was due from a putneedar to a zemindar, and which was paid in by the putneedar to save his estate from sale, when the Collector was aware that such payment by the putneedar would not legally have the effect which the putneedar supposed it would have. And in the second place, the amlah of the Collectorate having received the putneedar's money never informed the Collector, or anybody else, of the fact; so that, in ignorance of it, the putnee was sold some days subsequently. The Collector's office is clearly greatly to blame for what occurred. But the putneedars themselves are also greatly to blame—so much so that I may say they have themselves to thank for the result. They wilfully abstained from paying their zemindar whom they were bound to pay, and chose in preference to pay the money into Court; having paid it into Court, they gave notice of what they had done neither to the zemindar nor to anybody else, and they stood by and allowed the sale to proceed without ever suggesting that they had already placed the money in Court.

I do not see that, under the circumstances, there is any reason why the case should be remanded; for, in my opinion, the plaintiffs could, in no possible event, now be entitled to a decree. I would dismiss the appeal with costs.

Norman, C. J.—This case has been twice argued. It is a suit to recover possession of 13 annas 12 gundahs of a putnee talook, Mouzah Uttey Ramchunderpore, sold for arrears of rent under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819.

The facts are shortly these: An instalment of rent up to Magh 1274 being due from the plaintiffs who were the putneedars, a proclamation was issued under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1819, fixing the 13th of May 1868 as the day of sale.

On the 9th of May, a sum of money sufficient to cover the whole amount of the arrears was deposited by Shaikh Abir, of the plaintiffs in the Collectorate. payment was made to the accountan the Collector, who took the money, and a receipt for it, but no intimation of fact that such payment had been made given to the Collector either by Sh Abir or by the amlah of the Collecto The plaintiffs appear to have given no p in support of an allegation in their pl which is distinctly denied by the defend that they had given notice of the de to the agent of the zemindar. On the of May, the putnee was sold, the resp ent Moonshee Aftabooddeen Mahomed coming the purchaser.

The main question argued before us whether, the rent having been paid into Collectorate before the day of sale, plaintiffs are entitled to ask to have the annulled.

In order to see whether the sale proc ed regularly under Regulation VIII. of 1 it is convenient that I should refer to several Sections of the Regulations Acts under which it took place.

By Section 8 of Regulation VIII. 1819 as modified by Act XXXIII. of 18 zemindars, under direct engagements Government, are empowered to *apply sales of tenures*, upon which the right selling for arrears of rent has been reser in the following manner. On the first Bysack, that is, at the commencement the year following that of which the is due, the zemindar is to present to Collector a petition for the sale of the ten which must contain a specification of balance due to him. The petition is to stuck up in the cutcherry, with a no that, if the amount claimed is not paid the first day of Jyet following, the ten of the defaulter will, on that day, be s by public sale in liquidation of the arre A similar notice is to be stuck up at cutcherry of the zemindar, and a copy the notice is to be sent by the zemin to be similarly published at the cutche or at the principal town or village upon land of the defaulter.

By Section 9 of Regulation VIII. 1819 as modified by Section 16. Regulati VII. of 1832, the sale is to be made public cutcherry by the Collector, Dep Collector, or Head Assistant, to the highe bidder.

By Section 10 of Regulation VIII. of 19, it is enacted that, at the time of sale, person shall attend on the part of the mindar with a particular statement of *payments made up to the day of* le, together with the receipt or certifi- e of the notice directed to be published the mofussil; nor shall any lot be put for sale until the statement produced ll have been inspected, and the exist- e of a balance ascertained therefrom, until the receipt for the notice shall e been read."

he observance of these forms is to be rded in a roobokaree. The Section er provides that the zemindar shall be usively responsible for the correctness authenticity of the papers exhibited.

he effect of such a sale being to avoid mbrances created by the defaulting eedars, in order to prevent the injury might be done to inferior talookdars if tneedar should withhold the rent from emindar and allow his tenure to be , Section 13 empowers talookdars of second degree "to stay the final sale by ying into Court (*a*) the amount of balance t may be declared due by the person ending on the part of the zemindar on e day appointed for the sale. And in e manner they are declared entitled lodge money antecedently for the pose of eventually answering any de- nd that may remain due on the day ed for the sale."

Section 14, Clause 1, it is enacted that, the balance claimed by the zemindar account of the rent of an under-tenure ll remain unpaid upon the day fixed the sale of the tenure, the sale shall be stayed or postponed on any ac- nt unless the amount of the demand lodged."

here is nothing in Regulation VIII. of 9 which empowers a putneedar to make eposit either in the Judge's Court or in Collectorate before the day of sale, or ch gives to such payment, if made, the ct of a payment to the zemindar or his nt.

(a) The word "Court" had reference apparently to Civil Court of the district in which, by Section 8 of ulation VIII. of 1819 as it originally stood, one of the petition was to be presented, and by the e or Officer of which the sale was under that ulation conducted.

It is not pretended that any tender of the rent had been made at the mâl cutcherry of the zemindar, or that the payment into the office of the Collector was made after such tender in the mode prescribed by Section 4 of Act VI. of 1861, B. C., with any declaration such as is prescribed by the 5th Section of that Act.

The 2nd Clause of Section 14, Regulation VIII. of 1819, provides for cases where the putneedars contest the zemindar's demand of any arrears. The putneedar in such cases is empowered to apply for a summary investigation within the period of notice; but even in such cases, if the zemindar insists on his demand, the sale is not to be stayed, nor will the summary suit be allowed to proceed unless the amount is *lodged* by the putneedar contesting the demand; and if such deposit be not made, the alleged defaulter will have no remedy but by a regular action for damages and for a reversal of the sale.

My learned colleague, Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitter, is of opinion that, if the payment to the accountant of the Collector can be treated as payment to the Collector, it would of itself put a stop to all further proceedings. With the greatest respect for his opinion, I am compelled to say that I cannot agree with him.

He assumes, in the first place, that the petition to the Collector is a summary suit.

But an application for the sale of a tenure, where a right of sale has been specially reserved, in order that the applicant, out of the proceeds of the sale, may realize his rent, seems to me to be something quite distinct from a suit. The investigation which may be demanded by the putneedar under Clause 1, Section 14, is, no doubt, a summary suit. But the sale is not to be stayed till that suit is decided. Before its determination, the sale may proceed on the responsibility of the zemindar. The proceedings on petition of the zemindar to bring the estate to sale are more nearly analogous to the remedy by distress than to a suit.

But suppose we treat the petition under Section 8 as the commencement of a summary suit, it is *not a suit for money*. It is a proceeding to enforce a particular stipulated remedy. I know of no reason or principle on which it can be said that, in a suit to enforce such remedy, the Court has, indepen-

dently of any special authority, conferred by statute power to receive money paid into Court so as to bar the remedy.

Could it be contended that, in a suit for injunction or specific performance, or in an action for damages, the Court would have power to accept some pecuniary payment which it might assume to be a satisfaction of the plaintiff's claim? No doubt, in a suit for a specific, ascertained, or ascertainable sum of money, the defendant has a right, through the intervention of the Court, to satisfy the claim. He may obtain an order for liberty to pay into Court the amount of the claim.

In Hallett *versus* The East India Company, 2 Burrow's Reports 1120, which was a rule to show cause why the defendants should not have leave to bring into Court the sum of £2,670 for demurrage, the principle on which the Court proceeds in such cases is very clearly stated. "Where "the sum *demanded* is a sum certain or cap-"able of being ascertained by mere com-"putation without leaving any other sort of "discretion to be exercised by a Jury, it is "right and reasonable to admit the defend-"ant to pay the money into Court, and "have so much of the plaintiff's demand "upon him struck out, and that, if the "plaintiff will not accept it, he may pro-"ceed at his peril." This is done upon a rule duly served or on notice to the plaintiff.

There is no case that I am aware of in which it has ever been held that a defendant can bring money into Court privately and secretly, on an *ex-parte* application, and without giving notice to the plaintiff either of his intention to pay, or of the fact that the money has been paid into Court, and may be taken out by the plaintiff.

The case I have mentioned above was a rule which gave notice to the plaintiff. Act VI. of 1862, Sections 4 and 5, of the Bengal Council, and the form of plea of payment into Court in England which is given by a rule of Court having the force of a statute, provide for notice to the plaintiff informing him that the money is in Court ready to be paid out to him if he chooses to take it.

Payment into Court does not, as my learned colleague supposes, of itself put a stop to further proceedings in the action; it merely justifies the Court, after notice to the plaintiff, in making an order for stay of proceedings, where the whole mand of the plaintiff is satisfied by defendant placing the amount of that mand at the disposition of the plaintiff. other cases the plaintiff, on receiving n of the payment into Court towards sati tion of his demand, may either take o money and accept it in satisfaction, or ceed in the suit at the peril of a dec against him if he fails to establish his c to an extent beyond that which the pay into Court is sufficient to cover.

I think it clear that, if the payme the Collector's accountant made before day of sale be treated as equivalent to ment to the Collector himself at the when it was made, it would not, *ipso f* amount to a stay of the proceedings think that an irregular payment to amlah of the Collectorate, not immedi notified to the Collector, ought not to treated as payment to the Collector, n to affect the rights of a zemindar who had no notice of such payment. If such sumption could be made, it would op door to fraud and litigation, and injure zemindars and putneedars by imperiling security of titles acquired at sales on count of arrears of rent.

Can the payment to the amlah of Collectorate be treated as payment to zemindar? Clearly not. "To pay" i "discharge a debt." To make a good of, or in other words, to establish, the fence of payment, the payment must made to the creditor or to some agent of having authority to receive the money satisfaction of the debt.

Now, the Collector's accountant was no sense the agent of the zemindar receive this rent. It cannot then be that the balance claimed by the zemin did not remain due on the day fixed for sale.

The sale having been for an arrear of due at the time of the sale, I think it final and binding, and cannot now be aside.

It seems to me that the plaintiffs have ground to ask for relief on any principle equity. The zemindar, in putting in the remedy which the law gives him the security of his rent, has done no wro He has simply exercised his legal right, has been guilty of no default.

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If a decree were to be made under Section reversing the sale, it would be manifest- contrary to justice to indemnify the pur- ser against the loss he would sustain at charge of the zemindar.

he purchaser has done no wrong to any He has acquired a legal title at a sale held in pursuance of the powers given the Regulation. It would be most un- to deprive him without cause of the perty which is now vested by the sale in If the plaintiffs have suffered a loss, ems to me that the loss has been caused their own default. Had they chosen to d at the Collectorate at the time of with their receipt: had they contended and there that the arrears were not that what had taken place amounted payment of the rent: had they pro- d the receipt of the Collector's ac- tant, showing that the full amount of had been deposited in the Collectorate, re can be no doubt but that the Collector uld have stayed the sale. They did no- g of the sort. The defendants then only themselves to blame for the loss h they have doubtless sustained. The sion of the Deputy Collector appears to to be perfectly correct.

here is one point which was adverted to ing the argument. The plaintiff alleged they had tendered the amount of the to the mofussil agent of the zemindar, h Suttya Surun Ghossal. The Rajah his answer denied this. It appears that plaintiffs, though they gave a list of esses to prove this point, did not deposit necessary expenses and diet-money for se witnesses.

fter we had gone into the facts, the ob- ion that an issue on this subject had not n tried was abandoned by the appellant's el.

he appeal must be dismissed with costs.

The 26th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Insolvency—Small Cause Courts—Civil Procedure Code—Security.

In the Matter of

Bhoobun Mohun Bose, *Petitioner.*

Mr. J. S. Rochfort for Petitioner.

The provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure in respect of insolvency, *viz.*, Section 273, Act VIII. of 1859, and Section 8, Act XXIII. of 1861, are applicable to decrees of Courts of Small Causes in the mofussil.

The question of the sufficiency of the security tendered by an insolvent is one entirely for the Lower Court to determine.

Loch, J.—We think that we cannot interfere with the proceedings taken by the Small Cause Court in this case. It appears that the judgment-debtor, Burroda Kant Bose, was brought up before the Small Cause Court on the 9th May 1871. He then pleaded insolvency, and the Judge fixed the 29th May for the hearing of the insolvent's petition, gave notice to the plaintiff, directing him to appear on that date, and to make any objection he might think fit to that petition, and released the judgment-debtor on security.

The plaintiff now comes up to this Court, and objects to this order of the Small Cause Court, on the grounds that the Small Cause Court has no authority to inquire into the question of insolvency; and even if it has, the procedure adopted in the present case was wrong; that the security taken is altogether insufficient, and that no proper inquiry has been made regarding it. We do not see why Small Cause Courts in the mofussil should not inquire into the allegation of insolvency when made before them, under the provisions of Section 273, Act VIII. of 1859, and Section 8, Act XXIII. of 1861. We find that, by Section 47 of the Mofussil Small Cause Courts Act, XI. of 1865, the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure are, so far as the same are or-

may be applicable, extended to all suits and proceedings under this Act.

It also appears to us that the rules which are laid down by the provisions of Act VIII. of 1859 for execution of decrees in places out of the jurisdiction of the Court have been held, and are applicable to decrees of the Small Cause Courts, and therefore we see no reason why other Sections of Act VIII. of 1859, such as those which relate to inquiries into the solvency of the debtor, should not be equally applicable to decrees of those Courts.

As to the procedure adopted by the Small Cause Court in this case, it is said that the pleader for the plaintiff was present at the time the debtor was brought before the Court, and therefore he, the debtor, should then and there have been examined. There is no doubt that, if the pleader for the plaintiff was present and ready to act, the proper course for the Small Cause Court was then to examine the judgment-debtor. But we do not see that any material damage has occurred or is likely to occur to the plaintiff in consequence of the Judge's having fixed another date on which he may take up the petition of the insolvent, when the plaintiff will be able to meet any allegation that may be made by the judgment-debtor, and, if necessary, the Judge will grant time to the plaintiff to disprove the debtor's statement.

With regard to the third objection to the security, we think the question of its sufficiency is one entirely for the Small Cause Court Judge to determine. The application is rejected.

The 30th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Intervention—Section 73, Act VIII., 1859—Appeal by Intervenor—Remand—Right of appeal.

Case No. 2575 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Additional Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 6th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Seetamondee, dated 29th April 1870.

Bucha Singh (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Mirza Mashook Ali Beg and anothe (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboo Grish Chunder Ghose for Respondents.

A suit having been decided by the first Court an intervenor had been made a party under S 73, Code of Civil Procedure, it was remanded on t peal of the intervenor whose name was ordered expunged from the record. The suit was decided in favor of the plaintiff, but the decision was rev in appeal.

HELD that the fact of the defendant having, i first instance, allowed the intervenor alone to a did not debar him, after the case was re-opene remand, from appealing in his own person.

HELD that directly the intervenor's name had struck off on the ground that he had no interv the case, all the evidence he had put in ought to been removed from the record.

Glover, J.—THE plaintiff in this sued to recover possession of certain which had been leased to him by the def ant on the 26th of December 1866. The fendant admitted the lease, but denied th had in any way interfered with the co tion of rents on the part of the pla or dispossessed him. He alleged on the trary that the plaintiff was in possession, had been so from the date of his lease. third party, one Sheikh Noor Ali, in vened, claiming to hold these lands und lease previously given to him by the def ant, and he was made a party to the under Section 73 of the Code of Civil cedure. The case was decided in the instance by the Moonsiff, but the Addit Judge on appeal remanded it with direct to expunge Noor Ali's name from the rec he not being a party interested in the On remand, the Moonsiff again gav decree in favour of the plaintiff. The Ju on appeal has reversed this decision, hold that the plaintiff had never been dispossess

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that he had brought this suit unnecessa-
nto Court.

special appeal it is contended that
resent defendant had no right to appeal
nst the judgment of the Moonsiff, inas-
n as, on the first occasion, it was not he
appealed to the Judge, but the inter-
r. Now, in the first place, we may
rk that this objection was never made
he plaintiff in the Court below. He
red the defendant to prefer his appeal
out objection, and was content to abide
he result of the Judge's investigation.
order of remand by the Additional
e, moreover, re-opened the whole case;
if the defendant was satisfied to let
ntervenor only appeal against the origi-
udgment, it would by no means follow
he is to be debarred, now that the
has been re-heard and re-decided, from
aling in his own proper person. This
tion is, therefore, overruled.

e 2nd ground is that the first Court, in
ng to the decision that the plaintiff
been dispossessed, relied upon certain
nce, oral and documentary, which had
filed originally by the intervenor; that
udge was wrong in refusing to look at
evidence; and that, if he had done so,
ould undoubtedly have agreed with
Moonsiff in holding that the plaintiff
proved his case. Now, it is clear to
at in this matter the Judge was right.
this evidence was allowed to remain
e record after the person who produced
d been removed from his position as
dant, it is not easy to see. Directly the
venor's name had been struck off on
ground that he had no interest in the
all the evidence which he had put in
t to have been removed with him.

other and last objection is that the first
t came to its decision upon a considerable
tity of evidence, and that the Judge
ong in saying that there is no evidence
ove the plaintiff's dispossession. This
ars to be a mistake. The Judge no-
e says that there is no evidence. On
contrary, he alludes to evidence which
onsiders sufficient to prove that the
tiff was never out of possession, but
all along and is now in possession of
ands leased out to him. This is a find-
of fact on the evidence, and raises no
nd of special appeal.

e dismiss this appeal with costs.

The 30th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Res adjudicata.

Case No. 2586 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Gya, dated the 30th August 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 8th January 1870.

Sahadeo Pandey (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Nokhid Pandey and another (Plaintiffs), *Respondents.*

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Appellant.

No one for Respondents.

In a suit for removal of an alleged nuisance which was dismissed, because plaintiff did not produce his witnesses, and failed to prove his case, it was held that there had been an adjudication, and that another suit would not lie on the same cause of action.

Kemp, J.—THE plaintiffs brought this suit to remove a privy on the allegation that the said privy had been recently erected by the defendant, and was a nuisance to the plaintiffs. The defendant pleaded in the first instance that the present claim had already been adjudicated upon in a suit brought by the plaintiffs' father against the defendant in 1869, and on the merits he said that the privy was erected on his own land, and was not a nuisance to the plaintiffs.

The Moonsiff found on the issue in bar, namely, the issue of res adjudicata, that the claim now instituted was substantially the same as the claim instituted by the plaintiffs' father in 1869. The Moonsiff,

however, appears to have gone into the merits of the case, and on the merits he found that the privy was erected on the defendant's own land, and was not a nuisance to the plaintiffs.

On appeal, the Subordinate Judge, without deciding the question of res adjudicata, finds with the first Court that every body is at liberty to exercise his rights of ownership in respect of his own land, but that he must do so in such a way as not to injure his neighbour. In this case, the Subordinate Judge found that, as the privy is within a few cubits of the plaintiffs' house, it must be a nuisance to the plaintiffs, and not only to the plaintiffs, but to the persons passing along the road. He, therefore, held that the defendant had no right to erect the privy, and that it was consistent with justice to remove it. The appeal was, therefore, decreed.

In special appeal, the ground taken is that the claim is res adjudicata. The pleader for the special appellant has read to us the decision passed on the 14th of June 1869. It is very clear that in that case the plaintiffs' father sued the defendant, and the issue raised was whether the privy was built by the defendant on his own land, and, if so, whether it was a nuisance to the plaintiff, and, as such, could be removed. The suit was not, as alleged below, nonsuited. That suit was disposed of in this way; it was dismissed because the plaintiff did not produce his witnesses, and failed to prove his case. There has, therefore, been clearly an adjudication on the same cause of action between the same parties, or between a party to whom the plaintiff is privy and the defendant.

We, therefore, decree this appeal, reverse the decision of the Subordinate Judge, and dismiss the plaintiff's suit with costs.

The 31st May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Dwarkanat Mitter, *Judges.*

Appeal—Transfer—Execution-cases—Juri tion—Section 19, Act XVI. of 1868—Sec 26 and 27, Act VI. of 1871—Remands.

Case No. 469 of 1870.

Miscellaneous Appeal from an order p by the Subordinate Judge of Beerbh dated the 19th September 1870.

Chowdhry Hamedoollah and others (Dec holders), *Appellants,*

versus

Muteeoonissa Bibee and others (Judgme debtors), *Respondents.*

Baboo Sreenath Dass for Appellants.

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Debe Narain Bose* for Respondents.

A District Judge is not competent to transfer a of execution of a decree which has been passed b own Court, to the file of the Subordinate Judg disposal. Such a case is not one of the "civil ceedings" referred to in Section 19, Act XVI. of read with Section 362, Civil Procedure Code, and preted by Sections 26 and 27, Act VI. of 1871.

A case remanded to a District Judge for the pur of a local inquiry cannot be transferred to a Subord Judge for disposal.

Loch, J.—THIS case was remanded to Judge of Beerbhoom by an order of Court, dated the 20th March 1868.

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as required in that order to make certain inquiries as to the amount of the mesne-profits which were due to the decree-holder. After the case had been some time before the Judge under the order of remand, he, acting under the provisions of Act XVI. of 1868, applied to this Court to be allowed to transfer the case to the file of the Court of the Subordinate Judge. In that application, the Judge made no reference whatever to the remand-order of this Court, and, in fact, he set before the Court none of the circumstances sufficient to guide the Court as to the order that should have been made upon his application; but he obtained, however, the sanction of this Court to the transfer of the case from his own file to that of the Subordinate Judge. The Subordinate Judge has now made the investigation which was required by this Court, and has passed a judgment in the case, and an appeal has been preferred from that judgment to this Court.

A preliminary objection to the hearing of this appeal is taken to the effect that, as the case had been transferred to the Subordinate Judge for disposal, a regular appeal would, under the provisions of Section 19, Act XVI. of 1868, lie to the Judge, and only a special appeal would lie to this Court. On the other hand, it is contended on the part of the appellant that the Subordinate Judge had no jurisdiction to try the case; that this is not one of those civil proceedings referred to in Section 19 of Act XVI. of 1868 which may be transferred by the District Judge from his own file to that of the Subordinate Judge; and that, even though the sanction of this Court was obtained, that sanction could not give jurisdiction in such a case to the Subordinate Judge.

We think that this contention of the appellant is right. Looking at the terms of Section 19, Act XVI. of 1868, and reading them with the provisions of Section 362, Act VIII. of 1859, it appears to us that it was not the intention of the Legislature to enable the Judge to transfer from his own file cases of execution of decrees which had been passed by his Court, to the file of the Subordinate Judge for disposal. If this had been the purpose of the Act, it would have led to this very great inconvenience, namely, that cases might be transferred to the file of the Subordinate Judge of the value of above 5,000 rupees, and the appeal, instead of lying directly to this Court, would lie to the Judge, and only a special appeal would lie to this Court, and this Court would be ousted of its jurisdiction in such cases to hear them as regular appeals. A further argument may, I think, be drawn from the provisions of the new law, Act VI. of 1871, Sections 26 and 27. These Sections provide that the District Judge may, from time to time under the orders of the High Court, refer certain classes of cases to the Subordinate Judge for disposal; but among these cases we do not find that the Judge can transfer cases of execution of decrees passed by him or by his Court, to the Subordinate Judge for disposal; and we have from these Sections, I think, an interpretation of what the Legislature meant by the words "civil proceedings" used in Section 19 of the former Act.

There is a further reason why we think the Judge should not have applied for the transfer of this case to another Court; because the case had been previously heard by this Court in appeal from an order passed by him, and that order having been found to be erroneous, this Court directed him to make a local inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the mesne-profits due to the decree-holder. Therefore, it was the duty of the Judge to take up the case and dispose of it himself in accordance with the instructions contained in the order of this Court, and not to transfer it to a subordinate tribunal.

For all these reasons, we think that the order of the Judge transferring the case, and the proceedings held by the Subordinate Judge, must be set aside, and that the case must be remanded to the Judge for disposal according to the terms of the remand-order of this Court, dated 20th March 1868. Each party will pay his own costs.

Mitter, J.—I am of the same opinion. Act VIII. of 1859 says distinctly that the Court which passed the decree is bound to execute it; and I do not think that the provisions of Sections 26 and 27, Act VI. of 1871, were intended to apply to execution-cases. But be that as it may, the Judge had no power to transfer the case to the Subordinate Judge in the face of our order of remand. The permission given to him by the Judge in the English Department was given in ignorance of that order, nor can that permission be binding upon this Court.

The 13th December 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, F. B. Kemp, L. S. Jackson, and G. C. Paul, *Judges*.

Reviews.

Applications for review of judgment passed by the Hon'ble Justices G. Loch and Sir Charles Hobhouse, Bart., on the 25th and 26th May 1870, in Special Appeals Nos. 2267 of 1869 and 14 of 1870.

Case No. 107 of 1870.

Chinta Monee Paul and another (Appellants), *Petitioners*,

versus

Pearee Mohun Mookerjee (Respondent), *Opposite Party*.

Mr. M. M. Datta and *Baboo Debendro Chunder Ghose* for Petitioners.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Shome for Opposite Party.

Case No. 110 of 1870.

Shah Soobeeooddeen Aboo Saleh (Appellant), *Petitioner*,

versus

Assadoonissa Bibee (Respondent), *Opposite Party*.

Messrs. J. W. B. Money and *R. E. Twidale* for Petitioner.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Opposite Party.

It cannot be treated as a universal rule that no point can be raised on an application for a review which has been already discussed and decided in the original hearing of the appeal; or that no new point which has not been raised at the hearing of the appeal can be argued on the application for review. In each case the Court to which application is made must consider and decide whether a review is necessary to correct any evident error or omission, or is otherwise requisite for ends of justice.

These cases were referred to the Full Bench by Loch and Hobhouse, JJ., under the following orders—

Loch, J.—We are asked by Mr. Datta, Counsel for the petitioners in this case No. 107, to review our judgment of 25th May 1870; and in showing cause for the admission of his application for review, he proposes to re-argue the case making use of the arguments that were used at the original hearing of the case, and to cite certain authorities that might have been, but which were not, cited at the previous hearing, and to show us by a re-statement of the facts of the case, that the precedent which we supposed to govern that case did not, in truth, govern it; and he urged that, unless he be allowed to do so, it is impossible for him to be able to show cause for the admission of this application.

In the second case, No. 110, Mr. Money for the petitioner, asks to be allowed to show cause for the application of a review of our judgment of 26th May 1870; and in doing so he proposes to enter upon points either not dwelt upon or not taken at the former hearing, these being points of law which, though not prominently or not at all brought to the notice of the Court when the case was before it on the former occasion, the Court is yet supposed to be familiar with and should have borne in mind when deciding the case in question.

This raises the whole question, and a very important question it is, as to the mode in which cause may be shown in applications for review. There have been a course of decisions of this Court, which I will proceed to notice, and which may be said to have laid down the following rule: that in showing cause no point can be raised which has been already discussed and decided on the original hearing of the appeal; and no new point which has not been raised at the hearing of the appeal can be argued in the application for review. This is the ruling in the case of Bhowabul Singh *versus* Maharajah Rajendro Pertab Sahoy,* and it has been followed by most of the Divison Benches of this Court.

Looking to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure regarding the admission of

* 13 W. R., p. 157.

reviews, we find in Section 376 the grounds on which a review may be sought, in Section 378 the object which is to be attained by the review, and in Section 380 the course to be followed when an application for a review of judgment has been granted.

By Section 376 any person considering himself aggrieved by a decree of a Court, and who (1) from a discovery of new matter of evidence which was not within his knowledge, or could not be adduced by him at the time when such decree was passed, or (2) from any other good and sufficient reason, may be desirous of obtaining a review of the judgment passed against him, may apply for a review of judgment by the Court which passed the decree.

The object to be attained is either the correction of an evident error or omission, or to satisfy the ends of justice. Section 378 prescribes as follow: "If the Court shall be of opinion that the review desired is necessary to correct an evident error or omission, or is otherwise requisite for the ends of justice, the Court shall grant the review." The words "evident error or omission" do not, we think, mean merely the correction of a clerical error or supplying the omission of a necessary word, but comprise any evident error or omission: nor do the words "requisite for the ends of justice" signify, in our opinion, as has been argued before us, something of the nature of an error or omission.

The first case quoted to us, *viz.*, Bhowabul Singh, decided on 10th February 1870 (Bayley and Markby, JJ.),* laid down, as stated above, that in applications for review of judgment the party applying for review must show that there is good and sufficient cause for granting the review before he can be heard to argue that the decision is erroneous. In so showing, no point can be raised which has been already discussed and decided in the original hearing of the appeal; and no new point which has not been raised at the hearing of the appeal can be argued on the application for review. In the case of the Collector of Tipperah† (29th June 1870, Phear and Mitter, JJ.) Mr. Justice Phear stated that the application for review should "be rejected, because no matter is now brought to our notice for the purpose of inducing us to alter our view which might not have been brought before us and fully argued and discussed when the appeal was heard. Mr. Justice Mitter observed: "I am not prepared to say that the ground taken by the petitioner is not a proper ground for review of judgment, if it is otherwise valid. Whether the Full Bench decision referred to by the petitioner was cited before us at the first hearing or not does not appear to me to be very material. The Court was, in my opinion, bound to administer the law as it was, whether the pleaders who argued the case on that occasion pointed out that decision or not."

In the case of Gureeb Hossein Chowdhry (14th July 1870, Bayley and Hobhouse, JJ.*) Sir C. Hobhouse said: "In my judg-

* 13 W. R., p. 157.

† 14 W. R., p. 84.

* The 14th July 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Sir Charles Hobhouse, *Bart., Judges.*

Case No. 79 of 1870.

Application for review of judgment passed by the Hon'ble Justices H. V. Bayley and Sir Charles Hobhouse, Bart., on the 8th March 1870, in Regular Appeal No. 178 of 1869.

Mehyroonissa Khatoon and others (some of the Defendants), *Petitioners,*

versus

Mr. J. P. Wise (Plaintiff), *Opposite Party.*

Mr. J. W. B. Money and *Baboos Sreenath Banerjee* and *Grish Chunder Ghose* for Petitioners.

Baboo Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, for Opposite Party.

Hobhouse, J.—We think, after the best consideration that we can give to the arguments of the learned Counsel for the petitioner for review, that there are only three points which call for any notice on our part. The first is whether there is any error or not in our not coming to a decision on the question of the collusiveness of certain decrees. The second is as regards the multifariousness of the suit, and the third is with reference to the decision of the 17th January 1868. I understand the learned Counsel for the applicant for review to say that if we had found that the decree of one Delwar Hossein was a true decree, then we should have been obliged to find that, so far as his client is concerned, the plaintiff had no cause of action. I really do not know whether this would have been the case or not, and in order to determine first of all whether the decree was a true or fictitious decree, and if it was a true decree whether the plaintiff had any cause of action or not, it would, it seems to me, be necessary to go into the whole case again, re-consider the evidence in the case, and re-hear the Counsel for the opposite party.

Now, on turning to the judgment which we gave, I find that the pleaders who were then instructed by the defendant made one common issue on which they asked that we should determine either for the plaintiff or for the defendants, and that issue is thus recorded. I state in my judgment, after referring to certain admissions made, that "it is further not denied that, if the said Gureeb "Hossein is found to be the person at present beneficially interested in those properties and in the possession "and enjoyment of them, then he, as the possessor, is bound "to the extent of the properties to satisfy the decree

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nt, an application for review is not the per place where we can come to a l and determination of a question which s not raised in the appeal provided by law, and which requires us to go into whole evidence once again. In the tter of multifariousness, that is a question ich was fully argued at the first hearing;

gainst Jokee Chowdry." So that it seems to me the parties elected that we should determine the on a question of fact, and that that question should ne altogether independent of that now raised before The parties were then at liberty to raise the ques- which the learned Counsel now contends for; and if did not do so, they have only themselves and their sers to thank for it, and in my judgment an appli- n for review is not the proper place where we can e to a trial and determination of a question which not raised in the appeal provided for by the law, and h requires us to go into the whole evidence once n. For these reasons, I do not think that we ought to allow the parties to raise the question which the ed Counsel would now raise.

the matter of multifariousness, there is a question h was fully argued at the first hearing, and all that earned Counsel now asks us to do is that we should it once again. Possibly we should hear from him ments, not those which were argued at that time, but in others which he is prepared to advance on that icular question; but here, again, I agree with a num- f the Judges of this Court who have held that an ication for review is not the place where we should a re-argument of what has been already argued. at were so, the Legislature, instead of providing eview on the narrow grounds expressed in the law, d have provided that every case which has once heard in the way provided by the law should be led to a second hearing.

the matter of the decree of the 17th January 1868, nk we went too far when we said that it was *no* ence at all against the plaintiff, but at the same I do not think that it is conclusive on the point h was in issue before us, and I am quite clear, fore, that that decree, standing alone, should not ce us to alter our judgment on the facts found.

e other grounds which the learned Counsel would are, in my judgment (although the learned Coun- oes not think it to be so), determined by the deci- which we have originally passed in the case.

would reject this application with costs.

yley, J.—I quite concur with Mr. Justice Hob- e, who has delivered the judgment of the Court in case.

s to the admission of new arguments after a deci- has been given in the case upon the very same ts as were previously put before the Court, I have dy expressed my opinion in review No. 42, decided he 6th July last by Mr. Justice Markby and my-

regard to the manner in which this case had been ed before us, I would state that the pleaders argued ase as on the merits upon the one point only, *viz.*, ther Gureeb Hossein Chowdhry was really the bene- owner of the property in suit; and after carefully ing the evidence as it was read by consent, and ed upon by the pleaders on both sides, we came to conclusion of fact that Gureeb Hossein was such ficial owner.

he point of multifariousness had been previously ed and disposed of, and cannot, I think, be re-argued new footing by a new Counsel.

agree in rejecting this application with costs.

and all that the learned Counsel now asks us to do is that we should hear it once again. Possibly we should hear from him arguments, not those which were urged at that time, but certain others which he is prepared to advance on that particular question; but, here again, I agree with a number of the Judges of this Court who have held that an application for review is not the place where we should have a re-argument of what has been already argued. If that were so, the Legislature, instead of providing for review on the narrow grounds expressed in the law, would have provided that every case which has once been heard in the way provided by law should be entitled to a second hearing." Mr. Justice Bayley said: "As to the admission of new arguments after a decision has been given in the case upon points the very same as were previously put before the Court, I have already expressed my opinion in Review No. 42, decided on the 6th July last by Mr. Justice Markby and myself. The point of multifariousness had been previously raised and disposed of, and cannot, I think, be re-argued on a new footing by a new Counsel."

In the case of Banee Madhub Ghose, 20th December 1869 (L. Jackson and Markby, JJ.),*

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* The 20th December 1869.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Markby, *Judges.*

Case No. 225 of 1869.

Application for review of judgment passed by the Hon'ble Justices L. S. Jackson and W. Markby, on the 28th May 1869, in Special Appeal No. 2687 of 1868.

Banee Madhub Ghose, *Petitioner,*

versus

Gunga Gobind Mundul, *Opposite Party.*

Mr. G. C. Paul for Petitioner.

Mr. R. T. Allan for Opposite Party.

Jackson, J.—THE question that we have to consider in the present application is one which we have often considered before, and upon which I for my part have, and as I understand most of the other Judges also have, expressed a decided opinion. It is whether in a case on appeal having been carefully considered by this Court on a point of law argued at length, and the Court having come to a deliberate conclusion on that point, the party dissatisfied with the judgment of this Court has an absolute right to be heard by fresh Counsel in an application for review, merely for the purpose of convincing the Court that its first opinion on that point of law was erroneous.

Mr. Paul contends that a party has such right, and declares that such right is perfectly clear. I can only say that it appears to me to be quite clear the other way. Rights of parties and the duty of the Court in dealing with petitions of review must be gathered, if

Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson states the case to the following effect: "The question that we have to consider in the present application, is whether in a case on appeal having been carefully considered by this Court on a point of law argued at length, and the Court having come to a deliberate conclusion on that point, the party dissatisfied with the judgment of the Court has an absolute right to be heard by fresh Counsel in an application for review, merely for the purpose of convincing the Court that its first opinion on that point of law was erroneous. Mr. Paul contends that a party has such right, and declares that such right is perfectly clear. I can only say that it appears to me to be quite clear the other way. It seems to me clear that the only case in which the Court is bound to grant a review is where it shall be of opinion that the review desired is necessary to correct an evident error or omission, or is otherwise requisite for the ends of justice. Mr. Paul contends that his object in this case is to correct an evident error in law in the judgment of this Court. It is necessary, therefore, to consider what can be called an evident error. Can it be said that an error which is capable of being established by a lengthened argument upon a point which admits of two opinions is an evident error? I think not." Markby, J.

anywhere, from Sections 376 and 378 of the Procedure Code. Section 376 is in these words: "Any person considering himself aggrieved by a decree of a Court of original jurisdiction from which no appeal shall have been preferred to a superior Court, or by a decree of a District Court in appeal from which no special appeal shall have been admitted by the Sudder Court, or by a decree of the Sudder Court from which either no appeal may have been preferred to Her Majesty in Council, or an appeal having been preferred, no proceedings in the suit have been transmitted to Her Majesty in Council; and who, from the discovery of new matter or evidence which was not within his knowledge, or could not be adduced by him at the time when such decree was passed, or from any other good and sufficient reason, may be desirous of obtaining a review of the judgment passed against him, may apply for a review of judgment by the Court which passed the decree." Section 378 says: "If the Court shall be of opinion that there are not any sufficient grounds for a review, it shall reject the application; but if it shall be of opinion that the review desired is necessary to correct an evident error or omission, or is otherwise requisite for the ends of justice, the Court *shall* grant the review; and its order in either case, whether for rejecting the application or granting the review, shall be final, provided that no review of judgment shall be granted without previous notice to the opposite party to enable him to appear and be heard in support of the decree of which a review is solicited."

It seems to me clear that the only case in which the Court is bound to grant a review is where "it shall be of opinion that the review desired is necessary to correct an evident error or omission, or is otherwise requisite for the ends of justice."

Mr. Paul contends that his object in this case is to correct an evident error in law in the judgment of the Court.

It is necessary, therefore, to consider what can be called an evident error. Can it be said that an error which is capable of being established by a lengthened argument upon a point which admits of two opinions is an evident error? I think not.

It appears to me that the word "evident" is used in the same sense as it is in a passage to which the Chief Justice (whom I have just had the advantage of being able to consult) has referred me in the second Volume of Maddock's Chancery Practice, page 484, Title "Re-hearing." I think the word evident means merely that which is manifest, patent, or obvious, and it is only where the Court has fallen into an error of that description that it is bound to grant a review.

Mr. Paul refers us to a ruling of the Chief Justice and Justice Mitter, reported in Volume X. of the Weekly Reporter, page 143. In that case, the Recorder, after stating the nature of the case in which the point arose, says: "It seems to me that the ground set forth by Mr. Agabeg is a ground for an appeal instead of a ground for review, and I find that the Chief Justice, in the case of Nusseerooddeen Khan *versus* Inder Narain Chowdry, reported in Wyman's Reports, page 127, held that the fact of the Court below having decided against the weight of evidence is a ground for appeal, and not for review, and his Lordship goes on to say that the attempt has frequently been made for the purpose of having the case re-argued by fresh Counsel when parties have been dissatisfied with the first decision. * * * * I would, therefore, request the opinion of the High Court whether an error in point of law is a ground for review of judgment."

On that the Chief Justice was of opinion "that an error on a point of law is a ground for a review of judgment."

In consequence of this case being cited in argument, I have thought it right to consult the Chief Justice in order to learn whether he intended to go so far as these words might be held to imply. The result of that communication is that I believe myself authorized to state that what the Chief Justice really intended to say on that occasion was not that an applicant for review was entitled to a fresh argument on a point of law, but that if the Judge should be satisfied that he had committed an error in law, so that his own conscience should prompt and, as it were, compel him to rectify such error, it would be quite in accordance with the Procedure Code that he should do so; and in this I fully agree.

Mr. Paul says, if this be the correct view, Sections 376 to 378 may as well be struck out of the Code. I think not, and I believe those Sections capable of doing very useful service. But I may observe that, if parties had a right to re-argue the same points over and over again (for they are not limited to a single application), it would be simply impossible to carry on the business of the Courts, and I am sure the Legislature never contemplated any such thing. I must, therefore, decline to admit the right claimed by Mr. Paul of re-arguing this case for the purpose of convincing us that the conclusion at which we deliberately arrived on a point of law was not the conclusion at which we ought to have arrived.

There is, however, a manifest error in the decree in this case, relating to the quantity of land, which might very well have been set right in simple routine, but which I think ought to be corrected, and that correction, as pointed out, may accordingly be made, but without costs.

Markby, J.—I am of the same opinion. I think it quite clear that no person has a right to call upon the Court to hear a fresh argument upon a question which has been already submitted to it, and which it has determined. Were it otherwise, litigation would be absolutely interminable; and though the language of this part of the Code might have been more clear and precise, I am quite sure this was never intended.

s: "I think it quite clear that no person a right to call upon the Court to hear a h argument upon a question which has n already submitted to it, and which it determined. Were it otherwise, litiga- would be absolutely interminable; and gh the language of this part of the Code ht have been more clear and precise, I quite sure this was never intended."

t is only necessary to quote another case rred to by Mr. Money in the course of argument. In the case of Gungapershad *us* The Agra and Masterman's Bank, Ap- l 283 of 1869, * the present Chief Justice is orted to have said: "I have ruled for years a point previously argued cannot be ued in review. It is quite clear that we sidered the matter of costs and the circum- ces before, and we cannot allow the same nt to be argued again in review."

t is unnecessary to refer to other cases, for se already mentioned show clearly what been the opinion of the Court, as to the rse which should be pursued in regard to ies desirous of showing cause for the ad- sion of an application for a review of gment. The question has been very fully ued before us by Mr. Money. We feel that while, on the one hand, the danger of allowing a second appeal in the shape of showing cause has to be avoided, it is necessary, on the other hand, to take care that the restriction put by the Court upon parties does not amount to a denial of justice. Under the present practice, a party wishing to show cause for the admission of an application is stopped *in limine* by the Court if he seek to urge points already discussed, or to raise points not previously taken at the hearing of the appeal; so that almost the only ground on which a party can hope for the admission of his application, is by showing that there has been some evident error or omission in the judgment or decree of the Court. It appears to us, after much consideration of the subject, that the course now taken by the Court amounts almost to a prohibition of any review of judgment. The effect of the recent rulings on the subject is to prevent a person being heard at all, for it is self-evident that he cannot show cause why his application for review should be admitted if he be not heard. The grounds urged may not be sufficient in the opinion of the Court for admitting the application; but unless a party be heard, it is impossible to say that he has failed to show sufficient cause for the admission of his application. The question is one of so much importance, that, as the opinions of the Judges are not unanimous on the subject, we think it right to submit it for the consideration of a Full Bench of this Court, and ask it to determine whether the ruling come to by a Division Bench of this Court in the case of Bhowabul Sing, as regards the hearing of grounds for the admission of an application for review, is consistent with law, and should be adopted by the Court as the rule by which the admission of applications for review is to be regulated.

The judgment of the Full Bench was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—We think that it cannot be treated as a universal rule, that no point can be raised on an application for a review which has been already discussed and decided in the original hearing of the appeal; or that no new point which has not been raised at the hearing of the appeal can be argued on the application for review. We think that in each case the Court to which application is made must consider and decide whether a review is necessary to correct any evident error or omission, or is otherwise requisite for the ends of justice.

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* The 25th July 1870.

Present:

Hon'ble Sir Richard Couch, Knight, *Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble F. B. Kemp, *Judge*.

Case No. 91 of 1870.

lication for review of judgment passed by the on'ble Sir Richard Couch, Knight, Chief Justice, d the Hon'ble Justice F B. Kemp, on the 4th May 70, in Regular Appeal No. 283 of 1869.

The Agra and Masterman's Bank, Plaintiff (Respondent), *Petitioner*,

versus

Baboo Gunga Pershad, Defendant (Appellant), *Opposite Party*.

Mr. G. C. Paul for Petitioner.

Moonshee Mahomed Yusuf for Opposite Party.

ouch, C. J.—It is clear from our judgment that the nt taken in this application for review has been fully sidered by us, and we cannot allow it to be re-argued.

he application is rejected with costs.

The 14th December 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, F. B. Kemp, L. S. Jackson, and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges*.

Mitakshara Law—Alienation—Joint-family property.

Case No. 261 of 1869.

Regular Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Tirhoot, dated the 29th July 1869.

Honooman Dutt Roy and another (two of the Defendants), *Appellants*,

versus

Bhagbut Kishen and Kishore Narain Singh (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Messrs. G. Gregory and *C. Gregory* for Appellants.

Baboo Unnoda Persad Banerjee for Respondent.

On the question whether, under the Mitakshara Law, when a son sues to set aside an alienation made by his father of joint ancestral property, on the ground that there was no legal necessity to justify the alienation, and it is proved that no legal necessity for such alienation existed, the son is entitled to recover his own share of the property only, or the whole, and on what terms:

HELD that that question has been decided by two previous Full Bench judgments cited, in one of which it was ruled that the sale or mortgage of joint undivided property is invalid if made without the consent of all the co-sharers, and not valid even for the seller's own share when undivided; and in the other of which it was held that the terms upon which such decree should be made will depend on the equity which the purchaser may have to a refund of the purchase-money, or to be placed in the position of an incumbrancer as against the joint family in the particular case.

This case was referred to the full Be by Loch and Hobhouse, JJ., with following remarks:—

Loch, J.—THE plaintiff sues to set as certain alienations of ancestral prope made by his father, the defendant Bhag Narain Singh, on 1st Magh 1266, F. S., favor of the other defendants Honoom Dutt Roy and Hur Dyal Dass, on the al gation that, under the Mitakshara Law, which the family is governed in all matte of inheritance, his father had no authori in the absence of any legal necessity, a without the consent of his son, the plaint to alienate any portion of the said propert and he sues to recover from the hands of purchasers possession of the property s to them under the deed above mentioned.

The Subordinate Judge gave a decree the plaintiff, holding that plaintiff was en tled to bring the possession of the prope back to the joint family.

An appeal has been preferred by the p chaser defendant, and the points we are quired to try are—

1st.—Was there any legal necessity su cient to justify the sale?

2nd.—If not, what is the plaintiff entitl to recover. Can he recover the whole the property sold, or should the decree limited to his own share? If he can reco the whole, under what terms can he do s

The first point may be disposed of in few words. The Court think that nothi to show the existence of any legal necess to justify the sale has been made out, a the pleader for the appellant admits that is unable to sustain this plea.

On the second point, it is contended th the plaintiff is entitled to recover only own share of the property, and cannot d prive the purchaser of the share to which th father is legally entitled; that as the fath could insist upon a partition, the purchase for valuable consideration and in good fai should be allowed to stand in the shoes the father, and the Court should direct partition to be made; that the effect of decree declaring plaintiff entitled to bri the whole of the property again into th possession of the joint family would be enable the father, on possession being so re stored, to demand a partition and to take pos session of his separated share to the exclusio of the purchaser, whose purchase would,

h decree, have been declared null and d.

In the course of the argument, we have n referred to the following decisions ongst others :—

VIII. Weekly Reporter, page 1, Privy Council.

" Ditto, page 15, Full Bench.

IX. Ditto, page 511.

XII. Ditto, pages 1 and 447.

think it unnecessary to go into any of earlier decisions quoted, as they have n referred to and reviewed in the more ent judgments of the High Court.

In the first of the cases quoted above, the vy Council describes the condition of an divided family under the Hindoo Law, d the position of each individual member it, in the following words: "According the true notion of an undivided family Hindoo Law, no individual member of at family, whilst it remains undivided, an predicate of the joint and undivided property that he, that particular member, s a certain definite share. No individual of an undivided family could go to e place of receipt of rent and claim take from the Collector or Bailiff of the nts a certain definite share. The proceeds of undivided property must be ought, according to the theory of an ndivided family, to the common chest or urse, and then dealt with according to the odes of enjoyment of the members of an ndivided family."

In the case reported in 8 Weekly porter, page 15, the Full Bench held , according to the Mitakshara Law, a acquires by birth a right in ancestral perty, and has a right during his father's time to compel a partition of such property. The father cannot, without the consent of the son, alienate such property except sufficient cause; and the son may not only hibit the father from so doing, but may to set aside the alienation if made. The se of action accrues to the son when the chaser takes possession.

The question put to the Full Bench, with e judgment passed by the Court thereon, ported in 9th Weekly Reporter, page 511, as follows: The question is whether, under the Mitakshara Law, a son who recovers his ancestral estate from a purchaser from the father, upon proof that there was no such necessity as would legalize the sale, and that he never acquiesced in the alienation, is bound in equity to refund the purchase-money before receiving possession of the alienated property. The answer of the Full Bench was: "There can be no doubt that, although the "word 'recovers' is used in this question, "the meaning is whether, under the circum-"stances stated, a son is entitled to recover "except upon condition of refunding the pur-"chase-money. Assuming that to be the "question, the answer should be that, in the "absence of proof of circumstances which "would give the purchaser an equitable right "to compel a refund from the son, the latter "would be entitled to recover without re-"funding the purchase-money or any part of "it. We express no opinion as to whether "he would be entitled to recover the whole "or only his share of the estate." The Full Bench then proceeded to say: "Having "answered the question propounded, we "ought to add that, if it be proved to the "satisfaction of the Court that the purchase-"money was carried to the assets of the "joint estate, and that the son had the bene-"fit of his share of it, he could not recover "his share of the estate without refunding "his share of the purchase-money. So, if it "be proved that the sale was effected for the "purpose of paying off a valid incumbrance "on the estate which was binding upon the "son, and the purchase-money was applied "in freeing the estate from the incumbrance, "the purchaser would be entitled to stand in "the place of the incumbrancer, notwithstand-"ing the incumbrance might be such that "the incumbrancer could not have compelled "immediate discharge of it, and the decree "for the recovery by the son of the ancestral "property or of his share of it, as the case "might be, would be good, but should be "subject to the right of the purchaser to "stand in the place of the incumbrancer." The Court then goes on to say that the onus lies upon the purchaser in such cases to show that the money was so applied.

In the case reported in 12th Weekly Reporter, page 1, Full Bench Rulings, two questions were put to the Full Bench. The first is immaterial to the present suit. The second question was: "Bhugwan Lall, in his "lifetime, executed an ordinary zur-i-peshgee "mortgage in respect of his undivided share "in a portion of the joint-family property in "order to raise money on his own account,

"and not for the benefit of the family. Can "the nephew of Bhugwan Lall recover from "the mortgagee, without redeeming the "same, possession of the mortgaged share "or any portion of it?" The Full Bench held that, "upon the simple fact stated in the "second question, Bhugwan Lall had no au- "thority, without the consent of his co- "sharers, to mortgage his undivided share in "a portion of the joint-family property in "order to raise money on his own account, "and not for the benefit of the family. The "facts are not sufficiently stated to enable "this Bench to say whether the nephew of "Bhugwan Lall can recover from the mort- "gagee, without redeeming the same, pos- "session of the mortgaged share or any "portion of it."

In the case of Nuthoo Lall Chowdhry, disposed of by a Division Bench of this Court (Kemp and Glover, JJ.), reported in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 447, the question now before us was disposed of on the authority of the Full Bench Ruling in the case of Sudaburt Pershad Sahoo *versus* Phoolbas Kooer, reported at 12 Weekly Reporter, page 1. The learned Judges say: "Nor can he (the "purchaser) retain possession of Nirbhoy's "share, nor get back such portion of the "money as would be represented by that "share, inasmuch as, the estate being joint "and undivided, Nirbhoy had no right to "burthen or alienate even his own share "without the consent of all his co-sharers;" and the Court accordingly set aside the order of the Additional Judge regarding the retention by the defendant of Nirbhoy's share and the refund of purchase-money by Chedee.

We have carefully considered the Full Bench Ruling referred to in the above judgment, and are obliged to come to a different opinion from the learned Judges who passed that decision as to the extent of the ruling come to by the Full Bench. The Full Bench certainly determined that a member of a joint Hindoo family could not alienate his undivided share in the joint-family property in order to raise money on his own account, and not for the benefit of the family; but they abstained from answering the second part of the question, *viz.*, whether the legal heir could recover the whole or any portion thereof, giving as a reason for so doing that the facts were not sufficiently stated to enable the Bench to come to an opinion on the point. Differing, therefore, as we do from the learned Judges who passed the decision in the case of Nuthoo Chowdhry, as to the extent of Full Bench judgment in the case of Su burt Pershad Sahoo, and considering question before us to be one of very g importance to the public, we submit the lowing question for the decision of a Bench. Under the Mitakshara Law, w a son sues to set aside an alienation made his father of joint ancestral property, on ground that there was no legal necessity justify the alienation, and it be proved that legal necessity for such alienation existed the son entitled to recover his own shar the property only, or the whole, and on w terms?

It appears to us that some consideration due to the purchaser, and that it is scar equitable to apply to him the rule of "ca emptor." If the son, in an action against purchaser in which his own father is nec sarily made a defendant, succeed in hav the sale made by his father declared ille and recover the whole property without couping the purchaser, then the father, member of a joint Hindoo family, reco his interest in the property, and can im diately demand a partition, and, on its be made, will enjoy possession of his shar the property in spite of the purchaser wh money he has taken and spent. The fat who is a defendant in the case, will, in get a joint decree with his son who is plaintiff, inasmuch as, the property be restored to the joint possession of the fa consisting in the present case of father son, the interest of the father as a mem of the undivided family revives.

The following are the judgments of the Full Bench:—

Norman, C. J. (Bayley, Kemp, L. Jackson, and Miller, JJ., concurring).— this case the question referred for the d sion of the Full Bench was this: "Wh "ther, under the Mitakshara Law, when "son sues to set aside an alienation made "his father of joint ancestral property, "the ground that there was no legal ne "sity to justify the alienation, and it "proved that no legal necessity for "alienation existed, is the son entitled to "cover his own share of the property o "or the whole, and on what terms?"

It appears to us that this question been decided in the Full Bench decision which reference is made in the order of referring Judges. Sudaburt Pershad's c adopts the rule laid down in the Mitaks

t the sale or mortgage of joint undivided operty is invalid if made without the sent of all the co-sharers, and not valid n for the seller's own share when unided.

The argument which has been addressed us would tend to show that, if alienation made by a father of joint ancestral proty in a case in which no legal necessity ts, it might be treated as an alienation the father's separate share.

But the Full Bench case reported in 12 ekly Reporter, page 1, Full Bench Rulgs, shows that, even if so construed, that nation is invalid as against the jointily. A son, therefore, suing to set aside h alienation, is entitled not only to a deration that the alienation is void as an nation of the entire estate, but void alther even to the extent of the share as which the alienation is considered to be blished. As a consequence of that deration, the son suing on behalf of the ily may be entitled to a decree for possesn. Upon what terms that decree should made, will, according to the decision of Full Bench, 9 Weekly Reporter, page 1, depend on the equity which the purser may have to a refund of the purse-money, or to be placed in the position an incumbrancer as against the jointily in the particular case.

It appears to me that there is no question sed on this reference which has not subntially been disposed of in the two cases ady decided.

Loch, J.—I accept the conclusion come to the majority of the Judges, who compose Full Bench, that the question asked in reference has already been disposed of in Full Bench judgments mentioned in the dgment now delivered by the Full Bench.

The 23rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, F. B. Kemp, L. S. Jackson and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Arbitration-award—Judgment—Appeal—Section 327, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 741 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Sarun, dated the 14th February 1870, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Sewan, dated the 13th August 1869.

Lalla Ishuree Pershad and others (Plaintiffs), *Appellants,*

versus

Hur Bhunjun Tewaree and others (Defendants), *Respondents.*

Baboo Kishen Succa Mookerjee for Appellants.

Baboo Debendro Narain Bose for Respondents.

Case No. 868 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Officiating Subordinate Judge of Jessore, dated the 17th February 1870, affirming a decision of the Moonsiff of that District, dated the 29th September 1869.

Sustee Churn Chuckerbutty (Defendant), *Appellant,*

versus

Taruck Chunder Chatterjee (Plaintiff), *Respondent.*

Baboo Kashee Kant Sein for Appellant.

Baboo Bhowanee Churn Dutt for Respondent.

An award having been made upon a reference to arbitration without the intervention of the Court, the plaintiffs applied to the Moonsiff, in accordance with the terms of Section 327, Act VIII. of 1859, to be allowed to file the award in Court. The application was at first refused on the ground that the award had not determined all the matters referred for arbitration; but, on review, the Moonsiff having considered all the objections taken to the award—the main one being that before the award was made the defendants had revoked their authority to the arbitrators—decided that there was no valid ground for not enforcing the award and accordingly upheld it.

HELD by *Norman, C. J., and Jackson, J.* (*Paul, J., contra*), that an appeal lay from the decision of the Moonsiff.

Per Norman, C. J., and Jackson, J.—It is open, to an appellant to show that a paper which has been

filed is not an award; but if it be an award, and judgment be given in accordance with such award under the provisions of Section 327, such judgment is final.

Per Paul, J.—When an award has been filed and judgment entered according to the award, such judgment is final.

Per Loch and Kemp, JJ.—A judgment drawn up in conformity with an award is final, but a judgment of that kind cannot be made when the fact of the award having been made with the consent of parties is disputed; and in such a case the Court should refer the petitioner to a regular suit to try the validity of the award. If the Court proceed to try the whole cause on its merits, an appeal lies. If the Court reject objections to the filing of the award, and judgment be drawn up in conformity with the award, such judgment is final.

The first case above-mentioned was referred to the Full Bench by Loch and Hobhouse, JJ., with the following remarks:—

Loch, J.—THIS is a case brought to enforce a private award under the provisions of Section 327, Act VIII. of 1859. The Court, after calling upon the parties to show cause why the award should not be filed, and disposing of the objection that was raised, directed that the award should be filed *and enforced as an award made under the provisions of Chapter VI. of the Code of Civil Procedure,* and passed judgment in accordance with the terms of the award.

We think that this case must be referred to the decision of a Full Bench, because we find that there are conflicting decisions as to whether in such cases any appeal can be preferred from the judgment of the first Court. On the one side, we find a case reported in the Gap Number of the Weekly Reporter, page 33, Miscellaneous Rulings, one in 6 Weekly Reporter, page 60, and one in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 50. On the other side, we find a case in page 163, Marshall's Reports, in page 140, XI. Weekly Reporter, and page 85, XII. Weekly Reporter.

The case reported in Marshall, page 163, is a case which was referred by Court to arbitration. But, looking at the words of the law, we do not think that there is any difference between one class of cases and the other. Where a judgment is given according to the award—whether that award be given in a case which has been referred to private arbitration, or in a case which has been referred to arbitration by order of a Court—it appears to us that in either case no appeal will lie. Looking at the end of Section 327, we find these words: "If no sufficient cause be "shown against the award, the award shall be "filed and may be enforced as an award "made under the provisions of this Chapter." On referring to Section 325 of that Chapter, we find—"In every case in which judgment "shall be given according to the award, "judgment shall be final."

It appears to us, therefore, that when the judgment is in conformity with the aw and is not altered in any way by the Co the judgment of the Court is final and no peal will lie. But as there are conflic judgments on the point, we refer the ma for the decision of a Full Bench with following question:—

When an award has been ordered to filed, and judgment has been given in acc ance with it under the provisions of Sec 327, Act VIII. of 1859, is such judgm open to appeal?

The second case was referred to the Full Be by Couch, C. J., and Mitter, J., with following remarks:—

Couch, C. J.—IN this case there hav been a reference to arbitration without intervention of a Court and an award b ing been made, the plaintiffs made an plication under Section 327 of Act VIII 1859 to the Moonsiff of Chowkee Magoo that the award might be filed in Court. T application was at first refused on the grou that the award had not determined all matters referred; but a review having be granted, the Moonsiff considered the obj tions which were taken to the award—one which was, to use the language of the Mo siff, that before the arbitrators compl their decision they had been repudiated the defendants, or, in other words, that, be the award was made, the authority of arbitrators was revoked, and having c sidered the objections fully, as appears in judgment, he held that there was no w ground for not enforcing the award, and rected "that the suit be decreed in favo "the plaintiff; that the award of the arbi "tors be upheld; that the plaintiffs do "from the defendants costs in this suit w "interest at one per cent." Upon an peal from this decision, the Subordinate Ju held that there was no appeal and dismis it. Hence the present special appeal.

In a case in 13 Weekly Reporter, p. it was held that, where the first Court g judgment in exact accordance with a pri award, that judgment was final; and that Subordinate Judge was wrong in entertai an appeal. But in page 50 of the s Volume, it was held that under Section the order for the execution of an award m be considered to be a decree of Court fr which an appeal will lie. It is, however

remarked upon this case that the words in ction 325, "In every case in which judg-ent shall be given according to the award, judgment shall be final," are not noticed. 6 Weekly Reporter, p. 83, Miscellaneous lings, it was held by a Full Bench that an er rejecting an application to file an award er Section 327 is not a decree and is, there-, not appealable. An order that an award filed is not a decree, and would seem for same reason not to be appealable. By ction 327, the award, when filed, is to be orced as an award made under the previous visions of the Chapter, that is, enforced cording to Section 325, which says that a gment, according to the award, shall be al.

In this case the judgment of the Moonsiff s in accordance with the award, the objec-n being to the award that it was invalid, d ought not to be filed. The decision on objection was by the order that the award uld be filed, and the appeal is, in reality, inst that order. Under Section 327, there o decree, and it would seem to follow from decision of the Full Bench that there is no peal. But in 6 Weekly Reporter, p. 60, il Rulings, it is said that, on the allegation want of consent of parties, an appeal lies n an order under Section 327 directing an ard to be filed and enforced. As the objec-n taken in the present case was want of sent at the time the award was made, it nes within that decision. I think the unds of the decision of the Full Bench ly in the present case, and that no appeal ; but as the authority to the contrary was noticed by the Full Bench, and has not en overruled by it, I think we should refer a Full Bench the question whether in the sent case an appeal lies from the decision the Moonsiff.

Mitter, J.—I concur in the order of refer-ce proposed by the learned Chief Justice, I do so upon the ground that an appeal taken away in such cases by the express visions of Section 325.

The following are the judgments of the Full Bench:—

Norman, C. J.—In special appeal No. 868 1870, there was a reference to arbitration thout the intervention of a Court; and an ard having been made, the successful par-s applied under Section 327 of Act VIII. of 59 to the Moonsiff of Chowkee Magoora at the award be filed in Court. They also ayed at the same time that it should be en-rced.

The defendants objected, amongst other things, that, before the award was made, the authority of the arbitrators was revoked.

The Moonsiff overruled the objection, directed the suit *to be decreed* in favor of the plaintiff, that the award should be upheld, directed that plaintiff should get costs from the defendant, and (the suit being for land) that a memorandum should be sent to the Registrar.

The defendants appealed to the Subordinate Judge, who thought that no appeal lay; and the question whether such appeal will lie has been referred to a Full Bench by Sir Richard Couch and Mr. Justice Mitter.

It seems to me material to observe that, in order to set the Court in motion and to establish its jurisdiction, a party coming under Section 327 would have to show, *first*, that there has been a reference to arbitration; *secondly*, that an award has been made; *thirdly*, that his application is within six months from the date of the award.

The application would be, I suppose, by a petition verified.

A notice would then issue calling on the parties to the arbitration, other than the applicant, to show cause *why the award should not be filed.*

That cause might apparently be that there had been no consent to the reference, that no award had been made, or the like. If such party, in showing cause, should seek to introduce new facts, and to rely on matters not appearing on the face of the petition of the applicant, he would have to bring those facts to notice by a verified petition or statement on his own part. It appears to me that, if the Judge should see that there was a real and substantial contest between the parties, as to whether there had been a consent to reference, or whether an award had been made, he should refuse to decide the matter on the conflicting statements or verified petitions of the parties. He ought to treat it as a sufficient cause why the award should not be filed, and leave the applicant to his remedy by suit on the award.

It seems to me that the only order which the Judge is empowered to make under Section 327 is simply an order that the award *shall be filed.* When the award is filed, it is to be enforced under the provisions of Chapter VI. Now, the mode of enforcement of an award is by passing judgment and making a decree in accordance with the award. The

judgment and decree which have been passed in the present case appear to be irregular. The conditions under which judgment on an award is to be pronounced seem to be prescribed by Section 325. It is only in case the Court shall not see cause to remit the award, and if no application has been made to set aside the award, or if such an application has been made and refused, that the Court is empowered to pass judgment on the award.

I am disposed to think that an award filed under the provisions of Section 327 stands in precisely the same position as an award submitted to the Court under Section 320. In both cases, before passing final judgment, the Court is empowered by Section 322 to modify or correct the award; by Section 323 to remit the award for re-consideration, *first*, if the award has left undetermined some of the matters referred to arbitration, or determined matters not referred to arbitration; *secondly*, if it is so indefinite as to be incapable of execution; *thirdly*, if an objection to the legality of the award is apparent on the face of the award; and, *lastly*, by Section 324, the Court is empowered to set the award aside in certain cases.

The judgment, if given according to the award, under Section 325 has a particular quality—it is final. But it should be observed that the judgment, which is to be final, is a judgment in accordance with the provisions of Section 325. Now, suppose in a case of reference by order of Court, instead of allowing the parties ten days' time in which to apply to set aside or correct the award, the Judge were forthwith, without hearing objections to the award, to make a decree in accordance with the award, I think there can be no doubt but that such judgment and decree would not be such as is declared by Section 325 to be final.—See 12 Weekly Reporter, page 401; Sunt Lall *versus* Baboojee, S.D.A. Reports, Agra, 1863, Volume II., page 42.

In the present case, the Moonsiff, who was empowered by Section 327 to make an order that the award should be filed, instead thereof at once gives judgment that the award be enforced. That judgment is apparently not such a judgment as is contemplated by Section 325. It may be suggested that, although Sections 322, 323, and 324, provide ample means for checking irregularities and correcting errors in the award, there are no means of correcting the error if the Judge, in dealing with an application under Section 327, comes to a wrong decision upon the question whether the parties consented to the reference.

It is clear that a judgment on an award is not one from which no appeal lies. It is only if the judgment be *in accordance with the award* that the judgment is final, and can not be disturbed. Therefore, in order to make a final judgment, there must be, *first*, an award, and, *secondly*, a judgment in accordance with that award. It would follow that any objections which go to show that there is no award would show that the judgment is not final. I think, for instance, that the defendant might object that the award was a forgery, which is one of the objections in No. 741 of 1870; that it was made by persons other than the arbitrators named in the submission, as in the case reported in 7 Weekly Reporter, page 269. In such cases there would be no award in fact.

So again, if a Judge were to treat a mere statement of account made by a person having no authority at all as an arbitrator, such for instance, as an account drawn up by the servants of a mercantile firm showing the balances due to the partners as an award, the order for the filing of such a document would not make it an award.

It seems to me to follow that, if, after a valid revocation of their authority, persons who had been named as arbitrators were to pretend to make an award, it would be open to a party, against whom judgment in accordance with that paper had been pronounced, to contend by way of appeal that the paper was no award in consequence of the absence of authority on the part of the persons assuming to act as arbitrators to make an award.

For these reasons, I would answer the question proposed in the affirmative.

No. 741.—In this case the appeal to the Subordinate Judge raised three questions: *first*, that there was no mutual submission to arbitration, inasmuch as the two documents put in as proving such submission on the part of the several parties differed in a mutual point; *secondly*, that the defendant did not assent to the supposed agreement of reference; *thirdly*, that one of the arbitrators whose signature purports to appear on the award knew nothing about the award, that he had not signed it, and did not know who signed his name on the award: that his signature was a forgery.

I think it clear that the objection that on these grounds there was no award was one

hich the appellant was not precluded from king by anything to be found in the 325th ction.

The question put to us is in these terms: hen an award has been ordered to be filed, d judgment has been given in accordance h it under Section 327 of Act VIII. of 59, is such judgment open to appeal? would answer the question thus—It is open an appellant to show that the paper which s been filed is not an award. If it is an ard, and judgment is given in accordance h such award, such judgment is final.

Jackson, J.—I agree to this answer.

Loch, J.—The question we have to deterine, as put by the Judges who made the referce in case 741, is, when an award has been dered to be filed, and judgment has been ven in accordance with it under the provions of Section 327, Act VIII. of 1859, is ch judgment open to appeal?

It appears to me that the authority of a vil Court under the provisions of Section 7, Act VIII. of 1859, is of a very limited aracter; for were it otherwise, the facility ven by the Legislature to parties to have vate awards enforced by Courts of Justice ould be open to great abuse, and parties ppearing as petitioners under the above Section ould be in a much better position than other itors. No doubt, the Legislature has, by the ovisions of Section 327, shown great consiration to parties who, instead of coming into ourt, settle their disputes by private arbitraon. But the law contemplates that there s been a *bond-fide* award which is sought to e executed, and there can be none unless the arties were consenting to it. The law gives o countenance to fraud; and yet the Civil Courts might do so were the Judges to determine under the provisions of Section 327 uestions relating to the genuineness of the ward, and no appeal were admissible from eir decision on the matter of fact, as in other ases where a decision on the fact is open to ppeal. If the Civil Court, under the provions of Section 327, can entertain as an obection to the enforcement of an alleged award ny question as to its being genuine or made with the consent of parties, and on the evidence before it determine in favour of the genuineness of the award, and then draw up a judgment in conformity with that award, which judgment is final, then there is room to fear that much injury may be done without remedy. I have no doubt that a judgment drawn up in conformity with an award is final; but I think a judgment of the kind cannot be made when the fact of the award having been made with the consent of parties is disputed. The law, so it appears to me, contemplates that an award of some kind has been made with consent of parties, which one or other of them seeks to have enforced; and therefore, before a Civil Court can proceed under Section 327, the fact of an award having been made must be admitted by the parties, and the objections which the Court can dispose of are objections to its being carried out as a decree of Court. When the fact of the arbitration is denied, or the award is challenged as a forgey or collusive, the Court should, I think, hold its hand, and refer the petitioner to a regular suit to try the validity of the award. If, however, it proceed to try the whole cause on its merits, an appeal would lie in the usual course, for the Court would in such case have tried questions which, under the circumstances, it had not authority to try. The objections which may be raised to the filing of the award, and can be disposed of by the Court under the provisions of Section 327, are of a kind which relate to the carrying out of the award, such as subsequent arrangement, full satisfaction, payment, and the like; and if these objections be rejected, and a judgment be drawn up in conformity with the award, such judgment would, I apprehend, be final.

Kemp, J.—I am of the same opinion.

Paul, J.—No. 868.—This was an application, under Section 327 of Act VIII. of 1859, to enforce an award made under a reference to arbitration out of Court. According to Section 327, an application of this kind is required to be numbered and registered as a suit; and this requisition having been duly observed, a notice was served upon the defendants requiring them to show cause within a specified time why the award should not be filed in Court. The defendants appeared to show cause. They apparently admitted the submission to arbitration, but objected to the award on several grounds. Some of these grounds were highly technical and frivolous, and were very properly disposed of by the Moonsiff as untenable. The remaining grounds were levelled at the validity of the award, and in consequence thereof three issues were fixed for trial:—

1st.—Whether the award was liable to be set aside on the ground of misconduct of the arbitrators?

2nd.—Whether it was true that the arbitrators pronounced their decision after a repudiation of further proceeding by the defendants?

3rd.—Assuming that this was so, whether sufficient grounds existed for the repudiation of the arbitrators?

The second and third issues, in reality, resolve themselves into the first issue, as they, equally with the first issue, relate to misconduct imputed to the arbitrators. It may be observed in passing that the ground of misconduct as vitiating an award is expressly recognized in Section 324. The Moonsiff duly tried the above issues, and, deciding them against the defendant, upheld the award, and decreed the suit in favor of the plaintiff. It would have been more regular to have followed the course of procedure indicated in Section 327, namely, on deeming the cause shown insufficient to have ordered the award to be filed; then to have pronounced judgment in terms of the award, and to have drawn up a decree accordingly. The single order passed in the case is substantially composed of the order, judgment, and decree which I have just mentioned as contemplated by the Code of Procedure. From this decision of the Moonsiff an appeal was preferred to the Officiating Subordinate Judge, who, on the case coming on before him, held that no appeal lay, and consequently dismissed it. From this decision an appeal was preferred to the High Court. This appeal came on to be heard before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitter. Both their Lordships were clearly of opinion that no appeal lay from the decision of the Moonsiff to the Subordinate Judge; but they were induced to refer the question whether an appeal lies or not in consequence of a decision pronounced by a Division Bench of the High Court (Steer and L. S. Jackson, Judges, presiding), and reported in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, Civil Rulings, page 60, not having been noticed in nor overruled by a decision of the Full Bench reported in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, Miscellaneous Ruling, page 83. This reference, therefore, clearly raises the question whether the decisions in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 60, and in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 85, are correct or erroneous.

In order to answer the question, it is necessary to consider the various proceedings which are to be taken before an award made under a reference out of Court can be enforced. As previously remarked, an application to have the award filed in Court must be first made. On this application, notice issues to the parties against whom it is intended to enforce the award, calling upon them to show cause against the filing of the award. On cause being shown, a decision must be come to in one of two ways: either that the cause shown is sufficient, in which case the award cannot be enforced in a summary manner; or that the cause shown is insufficient, and the application to have the award filed is granted. The decision must conclude with an order either refusing or granting the filing of the award. It appears to me that an order directing the filing of an award is not a decree in its ordinary signification; and being in its nature a proceeding ancillary to the passing of judgment and decree, it is an order made in the course of a suit (commenced by an application), and relating thereto prior to decree. Consequently, under the terms of Section 363 of Act VIII. of 1859, no appeal lies from such an order or from the decision of the Moonsiff on which it is based. It is, however, contended on the authority of the case in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 50, that an order of this description is, in reality, a decree. If this were so, no further decree would be necessary under the provisions of Sections 327 and 325; but it appears clear that, unless an order directing an award to be filed is followed up by judgment and decree, no execution can issue. If the Legislature intended to attribute to such an order the efficacy and force of a decree, the latter part of Section 327 would have been worded differently; it would have run thus: If no sufficient cause has been shown against the award, the award shall be filed and enforced *as an ordinary decree under the* provisions of this Act. This, however, is not the language of the Section; and I have already shown that the order for filing an award is not a decree.

The decision of the Division Bench reported in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 60, is mainly rested on an earlier decision of the same Division Bench, and on a more recent decision of a Division Bench, consisting of the late Chief Justice and Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson, therein referred to. The latter authority, *i. e.*, the more recent decision, is of little or no weight with reference to the question submitted to us, as in that case the appeal was dismissed on the ground that in the circumstances attending it no appeal lay.

The former authority, namely, the earlier decision, has not been shown us. I am therefore ignorant of the reasoning contained in it, and cannot test its *ratio decidendi*.

The decision in 6 Weekly Reporter, page 60, considered independently of the reasoning which led to it, must be taken to have ruled that an appeal lies from an order deciding against the want of consent to the agreement

eference raised by the defendant. I can nothing in the proceedings prescribed by VIII. of 1859 for the enforcement of an rd made on a reference to arbitration out Court, which warrants the conclusion ved at by their Lordships in the case last d. I must confess, however, that I ein grave doubts as to whether Section intended to provide for the enforcement an award, when the order of reference er which the same is based is disputed by defendant. That Section seems to take granted two things, namely, that the ter has been referred to arbitration, and an rd has been made, and then provides for enforcement of such an award. I should that the denial of an order of reference the defendant ought to be considered fficient cause" shown against the award in the meaning of Section 327. The ges of the Courts at Westminster frently refuse applications by way of motion the enforcement of the terms of an award, n the points raised against the validity of award are nice and difficult, leaving the y applying to his remedy by action (*see* ances 18 L. J. Ex. 29, and 3 Meeson and lsby, p. 722). I do not see why, when serious stions of fact which go to the root of the rd arise, or when difficult questions of law e as to the validity or construction of an rd, such matters should not be held to ount to sufficient cause within the meaning ection 327. I do not think when, under tion 326, an application to file an agreent to refer to arbitration is met, on showcause, by the statement of the defendant the agreement is a forgery, the Civil urt would entertain and try the preliminary stion of forgery so raised between the ties. The Civil Court would be quite tified in holding, and would doubtless hold, denial of the defendant to be sufficient se against the agreement, and leave the ty applying to his legal remedy. It be so, there is no reason for holding t the cause to be shown against an award de on an agreement to refer out of Court, ich may traverse (amongst other matters) making of the agreement to refer, should. far as this traverse or denial is concerned, different to, and of wider operation (so as to necessitate the raising and trial of an issue thereon) than, the cause which may be shown under Section 306 as regards the same traverse or denial. Moreover, our Indian Legislature, which guards most carefully the interests of the revenue in matters of litigation, could hardly have intended that the right to recover possession of landed property of great value under a disputed award should, with all the intricate issues of law and fact relating thereto, be tried in a summary manner upon, and pursuant to, an application engrossed on a stamp of 8 annas. Unless such a construction be put on the terms of Section 327 as would exclude the trial of all sorts of difficult questions of law and fact which would arise in an action upon an award disputed by the defendant, and would limit the operation of that Section as far as judicial decision is concerned to the determination of causes and matters specified in Sections 324 and 325, the decision of subordinate Courts pronounced in the course of summary proceedings on matters arising out of a contested award would stand on a different footing from decisions of the same Court in regular suits and relating to the same matters—the former being conclusive and final, and the latter inconclusive and open to appeal. This anomalous state of things furnishes an additional and forcible argument in support of the contention suggested with reference to the words "sufficient cause" in Section 327 and generally to the terms of that Section.

Having regard to the appeal addressed to us, in the interests of justice, by the pleaders who have argued the affirmative of the question submitted, against the inexpediency and injustice of laying down a rule of law which would hold as conclusive a single judgment in matters of vital importance, bearing in mind that it was assumed in the case in 6 Weekly Reporter, page 60, that a subordinate Court was competent to decide in a proceeding under Section 327 the issue of agreement or no agreement to refer to arbi-

tration arranged out of Court, but disputed in Court, and believing it possible that, on the basis of this assumption, the argument against the injustice of concluding parties by a single judgment might have prevailed so to have led to the decision in that case, I have been in a manner forced to consider what construction should be put on Section 327. I trust the construction I have suggested, and the consideration I have bestowed on Section 327, will have the effect of eliminating what I may be permitted to designate the disturbing element already adverted to as existing in the case in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 60, and of allaying the contentious anxiety felt in the cause of justice and expressed in the course of the argument adduced in support of the right of appeal against which I am about to decide. On the whole, then, for the reasons I have given, as well as for the reasons advanced by both their Lordships the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitter, I am of opinion that the decisions in Volume XII., Weekly Reporter, and Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, so far as they are relevant to the question before the Court, should be expressly overruled, and the question submitted should be answered in the negative.

No. 741.—The question submitted in this case is:—

When an award has been filed, and judgment given in accordance with it under the provisions of Section 327 of Act VIII. of 1859, is such judgment open to appeal?

Section 327 provides: If no sufficient cause be shown against the award, the award shall be filed and enforced as an award made under the provisions of this Chapter.

The provision for passing judgment is contained in Section 325, which, in substance, states that, if the award be upheld, the Court shall proceed to pass judgment according to the award. The same Section further enacts that, in every case in which judgment s be given according to the award, the ju ment shall be final. In the present c judgment was given according to the aw it is therefore final. If this was the only p intended to be referred, it is wholly unnec sary to discuss any decisions on the subj as the words of the law are perfectly cl My answer, therefore, to the question sub ted is, that the judgment given according the award is final, and not open to appeal.

If it was intended to submit in this c for the consideration of a Full Bench, t question referred in special appeal No. 8 as to whether an appeal lies from the decis of a Moonsiff directing the filing of an aw made under a reference out of Court. I de to refer to my judgment in the last case which I have considered at some length t question for the proper answer, namely, t no appeal lies.

In this case I observe that the Moons after having allowed oral evidence to be s duced on the subject of the issue whether defendant consented or not to refer matter arbitration, decided upon such evidence agai the defendant, and held that he had c sented.

If the views I have expressed in the l case with reference to the meaning of Sect 327 are correct, the denial by the defend of the submission to arbitration should h been held to amount to sufficient cause show against the award, so as to have stayed furth action on the part of the Court.

As, however, no appeal lies in this case, a error which has been committed cannot rectified by this Court sitting as a Court appeal.

If the parties consider the position I h advanced tenable, they will probably t proper steps to have the decision of the Moo siff set right.

The 17th April 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, A. G. Macpherson, and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges*.

Reversionary interest—Execution—Section 205, Act VIII. of 1859.

Case No. 407 of 1870.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh, dated the 7th December 1869, reversing a decision of the Moonsiff of Nicklee, dated the 12th April 1869.

Ram Chunder Tantra Doss (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

Thurmo Narain Chuckerbutty (one of the Defendants), *Respondent*.

Baboo Hem Chunder Banerjee for Appellant.

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Luleet Chunder Sein* for Respondent.

The interest of an heir, according to Hindoo Law expectant on the death of a widow in possession, is not property, but a mere expectancy, and therefore is not rendered liable to attachment and sale in execution of decree by the 205th Section of Act VIII. of 1859.

This case was referred to the Full Bench by Phear and Mitter, JJ., with the following remarks:—

Phear, J.—If the decision of a Division Bench, reported in 12 Weekly Reporter, page 54, be correct, then the judgment of the Lower Appellate Court is right. But we feel ourselves unable to concur in this decision.

Speaking for myself, I have been accustomed, when sitting in the other side of the Court, and there dealing with execution-cases, to consider that the reversionary right of an heir to the last male holder of immoveable property expectant on the death of a Hindoo widow in possession did not constitute such property as could be attached and sold in execution of a decree. The right, such as it is, appears to us to amount to nothing more than an expectation, and to be in nowise a vested interest. We believe that there have been rulings made after argument going this length on the original side of the Court, though we are not at this moment able to lay our hands upon a report of one. Of course, if the so-called heir voluntarily sells his reversionary right on his succeeding to the property (if he does so), a Court of Equity will compel him to fulfil his contract. But such a case differs fundamentally from the one before us.

If however, the decision referred to be correct law, then it seems that there remains at least one issue of fact necessary for the complete determination of the case between the parties which has not yet been tried by the Lower Appellate Court; and we ought, therefore, to send back the case for the purpose of having this tried.

Under these circumstances, we think that we are obliged to have recourse to a Full Bench for guidance; and having regard to the facts of the present case, we shall put our question into the following shape :—

A is proprietor in possession of a certain share in specified property. B is in the enjoyment of the remaining share of the estate of Hindoo widow, *i. e.*, as the widow of C, deceased, the last presiding proprietor thereof.

Would A, in the event of B dying in his lifetime, be the immediate heir of C in respect of the share enjoyed by B? Does an attachment of the whole property in execution of a money-decree against A, followed by sale of the rights and interests of A in that property, pass to the purchaser the expectant or so-called reversionary right of A to the share which is enjoyed by the widow, and give him a good title to possession of it on the occurrence of the death of the widow?

The judgment of the Full Bench was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—We are all of opinion that the interest of an heir, according to Hindoo Law, expectant on the death of a widow in possession, is not property. It is a mere expectancy, and therefore not rendered liable to attachment and sale in execution of a decree by the 205th Section of Act VIII. of 1859.

* 12 W. R., p. 45, overruled.

This point was considered after very full argument in a case reported in Volume II., Indian Jurist (N. S.), page 277* (Bhoobun Mohun Banerjee *versus* Thakoor Doss B was), in which the Court on the orig

* Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction.

The 24th June 1867.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Judge.*

Bhoobun Mohun Banerjee, *Plaintiff,*

versus

Thakoor Doss Biswas, *Defendant.*

The Advocate-General and *Hyde* for the Plaintiff.

Kennedy and *Broughton* for the Defendant.

Norman, J.—MR. KENNEDY on behalf of the defendant moved to set aside an order made by this Court on the 26th of April last, prohibiting the defendant from alienating the property mentioned in the tabular statement annexed to the said order; and another order, dated the 14th of May, directing the Sheriff of Calcutta to sell the above-mentioned property, and that the Sheriff might be restrained from proceeding to sell the property.

The plaintiff, having obtained a decree in this suit for Rupees 8,040 for debt and Rupees 215-8 for costs, presented to this Court a petition under Section 213 for the attachment of a number of houses described as "belonging to the estate of the late Rasmoney Dossee," and obtained an order for their attachment under Section 235, prohibiting the defendant from alienating the same. The schedule annexed to that order described the property attached as "the reversionary right of the defendant in the following properties," mentioning the houses in detail.

The inventory does not contain a specification *of the defendant's share or interest therein to the best of the applicant's belief and so far as he has been able to ascertain the same,* as required by Section 213. This is a grave irregularity. A debtor whose property may be sold under a loose description of this sort might sustain great injury by it. If an application had been made to stay the sale on account of this defect in the proceeding, I should probably have acceded to it, and compelled the plaintiff to pay any costs of or occasioned by the application.

The nature of the interest which the plaintiff seeks to bring to sale is set out in the plaintiff's petition. From this it appears that Raj Chunder Doss died, leaving as his heiress his widow Rasmoney Dossee. He also left four daughters, of whom two afterwards died in the lifetime of their mother, each leaving one son.

On the death of Rasmoney, she was succeeded by Sreemutty Puddomoney Dossee and Sreemutty Juggodumba Dossee, the surviving daughters of Raj Chunder Doss.

Thakoor Doss Biswas is one of the sons of Juggodumba Dossee by her husband Mothoor Mohun Biswas. After the death of his mother and aunt, he will apparently be entitled to succeed to the properties now in their possession as an heir jointly with all the sons of his mother and her sisters who shall then be living.

Mr. Kennedy contended that the so-called reversionary interest of Thakoor Doss was a mere expectancy, and as such could not be attached in execution of a decree; and he referred to a case decided by Mr. Justice Macpherson—Koraj Koonwar *versus* Kemul Koonwar, 5 Weekly Reporter, p. 34.

The Advocate-General contended that the defen has property in the houses mentioned in the invent which, under the 201st and 205th Sections, is liable to tachment and sale in execution of the decree. Advocate-General also took a preliminary objection the defendant had no interest in the question and no to object to the attachment; that if the sale took p and the attachment and sale were not warranted by VIII., nothing would pass, and his interest would affected.

I think that there is nothing whatever in the se point. If the defendant's interests were now sold would only realize a very small sum. Even if th were no chance of a surplus, he would have an inte in seeing that the property was sold in such a man as to pay his debts. On that ground in Pinches v Harvey, 1 Queen's Bench Reports, p. 868, it was h that a defendant against whom a fiat in bankruptcy h issued was not disqualified by want of interest fr moving to set aside an execution on a judgment re larly entered upon a warrant of attorney on ground of bad faith. But there is another ground which I think he is at liberty to come in and objec the attachment. It appears to me that, if he allo the execution to go on without taking any objection it, and permitted his creditor to get satisfaction by sale, it might hereafter be fairly contended that he precluded from objecting that nothing passed under sale which he had tacitly allowed, and of which he h elected to take the benefit.

I now come to the main point in the case. Daugh take the inheritance in default of male issue—Co brooke's Digest, Book V., Sections 419 and 420. Ge rally speaking, no doubt, a daughter has no power alienate property which she takes by descent from h father to the detriment of the other heirs of her father See Macnaghten's Hindoo Law, Volume II., pages 224 232; Mussamut Gyan Koonwur *versus* Dookhun Sa 4 Select Reports, page 330. But it is expressly down that she may make a gift (of a limited portion the property) to a son on account of his filial pie Colebrooke's Digest, Book V., Section 353 and notes Section 360. She has also apparently a power sim to that of a widow to sell or charge the property case of necessity for the payment of the debts of h father, the performance of her funeral rites, the su port of his relatives or her own maintenance. Strange's Hindoo Law, Volume I., page 140, the po of a daughter is treated as larger than that of a wido It is, in fact, cut down by treating the texts relating the duties and powers of a widow in this respect applying generally to the case of women who take p perty (other than stridhun) by inheritance—See Dy bhaga, Chapter XI., Section 2, verse 31, and the op nions of the Pundits in the case last above cited. Th daughter's estate cannot be said to be a mere life-estate as it has been treated by Sir F. Macnaghten's consider ations on Hindoo Law, page 67. As heiress for the tim being in possession, the daughter represents the entir estate. Her position appears to be strictly analogous t that of a widow. Now, it has been determined that Hindoo widow has not a mere life-interest, that th whole estate is for the time vested in her, absolute for some purposes, though in some respects for a qua fied interest—See Sreemutty Jadoomoney Dabee *versus* Saroda Prosonno Mookerjee, 1 Boulnois, p. 123; Jud ment of Sir James Colvile, Doedem Goluckmoney Dabee *vs.* Degumbur Dey, 2 Boulnois, pp. 193 and 198; Cos nath Bysack *vs.* Hurrosoonduree Dossee, Clarke's Add tional Cases, p. 91; Katama Natchiar *vs.* the Rajah o Shivagunga,* 9 Moore's Indian Appeals, pp. 539-60 In Hurry Doss Dutt *vs.* S. M. Upoorna Dossee,

* 2 W. R., P. C., p. 31.

ide followed a previous decision of Mr. ustice Campbell and Mr. Justice Macpherson

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oore's Indian Appeals, pp. 433-445, the Privy Coun- held that, whether or not daughters stand in the same ation as a widow with regard to the right of dispo- on of the property, they, at all events, stand in the e situation as to their right of administration and t of enjoyment of the property for their own lives; on that ground the Court refused to act upon the ciples which are applied in Courts of Equity in land for securing in the public funds property to ch one person is entitled in possession and another emainder.

Until the death of a daughter, it is not known who succeed her. In the case now before me, the defend- is not the immediate heir in expectancy of either his ther or his aunt. The whole property will go in the instance to the sister who shall survive. After the th of such surviving sister, if the sisters were married n the property devolved on them, the surviving sons all the sisters will take equally *per capita*. Those hom the property may go will take as heirs of their odfather. Till the event happens on which the pro- ty devolves, the several sisters' sons are merely ex- tant heirs. Ordinarily the possibility of succeeding a mere expectant heir is no property; and that is so e unless the peculiar inchoate interest by birth of an according to Hindoo Law is a present interest which es him in a position different from that of the heir of estate tail according to English Law. Hindoo Jurists, se opinions are received as law in Bengal, lay down t the expectant interest of a son, in other words, t has been called the inchoate right of inheritance birth, is not property—*See* Dyabhaga, Chapter I., ctions 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 26, 30-33, 39, 42. In these sages it is distinctly declared that property is not ted in sons while the father lives; they have *no nership* while their father is living.

to be found in Volume VI., Weekly Reporter, page 34.

The case will go back to the Division Bench for trial.

The case of Upoorna Dossee, in fact, goes a long way to show that daughters' sons have no property in the ancestral estate while the daughters are alive. They cannot interfere, or call on the Court to interfere, with the management of the property by the daughter, unless there is manifest danger to the estate from the mode in which the daughter is dealing with it. It is clear that, if, acting within the limits of her authority, a widow thinks fit to alienate any particular portion of the property, she has a right to do so without the assent of the heirs. No heir, no alienee of an expectant heir, could interfere and be heard to say: "I object to your selling this house, this land, or this piece of Government paper. Sell something else." Within the limits of their powers, whether these are exactly the same as those of the widow or not, daughters are in the same positions as the widow.

It is, therefore, not only a mere contingency whether the defendant will ever take as heir, but it is also uncertain what he will take if he ever does succeed as heir. The conclusion at which I arrive is that the defendant is merely an expectant heir, and that he has not any property in the ancestral estate now in the possession of his mother and aunt.

I am informed by Mr. Justice Macpherson that the case reported in the 6 Weekly Reporter, p. 34, was decided after time taken by the Court, and that it was very fully considered.

As I entirely agree with the view taken by the Court in its appellate branch in that case, it only remains for me to say that the attachment and order for sale must be set aside with costs, and the Sheriff restrained from selling the property.

The 17th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, A. G. Macpherson, and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Kubooleut—Shareholders—Fractional shares.

Case No. 1798 of 1870 under Act X. of 1859.

Special Appeal from a decision passed by the Judge of Beerbhoom, dated the 7th June 1870, reversing a decision of the Deputy Collector of that District, dated the 1st March 1870.

Indur Chunder Doogur (Plaintiff), *Appellant,*

versus

Bindabun Beharee (Defendant), *Respondent.*

Baboos Hem Chunder Banerjee and *Debender Chunder Ghose* for Appellant.

Baboo Bama Churn Banerjee for Respondent.

In a suit in which the zemindar sought to recover possession with mesne-profits, the tenant declared the land to be rent-free. The decree gained by the zemindar declared the land to be mál, but refused to give possession and mesne-profits, and it declared the defendant entitled to possession so long as he performed the service for which the land was granted, but that, on his failure to do so, the zemindar might resume the land. The zemindar did not resume; but the present plaintiff, who is a purchaser from the zemindar, sued for a kubooleut, from the tenant who is still in possession. HELD that the plaintiff was not entitled to a kubooleut, as the tenant might be perfectly willing, so far as was known, to perform the service which he was required to render.

Per Norman, C. J.—As a general rule, the holder of a tenure cannot be sued by owners of fractional shares in the superior tenure for separate kubooleuts according to the proportions to which they allege themselves to be entitled in the superior tenure.

Per Mitter, J.—The shareholders of an undivided estate have no right to divide a holding or tenure without the consent of the tenant. The payment to each shareholder of his quota of the rent is of itself no evidence of such consent; although, when coupled with other facts and circumstances, it may justify a Court of justice in coming to the conclusion that the tenant actually consented to the division of his tenure into a corresponding number of distinct holdings.

This case was referred to the Full Bench by Kemp and Glover, JJ., with the following remarks:—

Glover, J.—I DO not see how we can (under the Court's Rules of Practice) avoid sending this case to the Full Bench.

The point for decision is whether a suit by the owner of a fractional share of an undivided estate for a kubooleut will lie.

In Niddee Ram Sircar *versus* Dhunkishen Bhuttacharjee (6 Weekly Reporter 53) it was decided by Bayley and Sumbhoonath Pundit, JJ., that such a suit could be brought.

In Soorut Soonduree Debia *versus* Messrs. R. Watson and Co. (11 Weekly Reporter, p. 25), Norman and E. Jackson, JJ., held that nothing in Act X. of 1859 gave authority to a party entitled to a fractional share of an undivided estate, though he might be receiving a definite portion of rent from the tenant, to maintain a suit for a kubooleut in respect of such undivided share.

But in Oodoy Chunder Dhur *versus* Kalee Tara Dassee (11 Weekly Reporter, p.

393), Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, JJ., ruled that, where no partition had been made between several landholders, no one of the co-parceners had a right to sue for a kubooleut for his own fractional share. The question, however, as to whether the tenant had been paying rent separately to the co-parcener suing for a kubooleut did not arise in this case; and the two precedents are not, therefore, absolutely opposed to each other.

In the case of Gunganarain Dass *versus* Sharoda Mohun Roy (12 Weekly Reporter, page 31), Macpherson and E. Jackson, JJ., held that a suit by one of several joint proprietors to recover a certain proportion of rent said to be payable by defendants will not lie in the absence of the other joint proprietors, unless the defendants have paid their rents to the plaintiff separately, or have agreed to do so.

The last reported case is Romanath Ruckhit *versus* Chand Huree Bhooya (14 Weekly Reporter, page 432), in which the learned Judges (Bayley and Paul, JJ.) followed the ruling in Gunganarain Dass *versus* Sharoda Mohun Roy.

They did not think it necessary to refer the point to a Full Bench. although there was a conflict of decisions on the subject, because, as Mr. Justice E. Jackson had seen reason to change the opinion he had come to in the case of Soorut Soonduree Debia, the decision in that case was that of one Judge only (Mr. Justice Norman).

I do not see what difference this makes. The decision in the case of Soorut Soonduree Debia has never been reviewed, but remains, to all intents and purposes, a binding decision, notwithstanding that one of the learned Judges who took part in it saw afterwards reason to change his opinion.

And so long as this decision stands, it is undoubtedly in direct conflict with the other decisions noted above, and specially with that of the 8th of December 1870 (12 Weekly Reporter, page 432).

Under these circumstances, I think that we ought to refer the present case to a Full Bench.

Kemp, J.—There certainly is a conflict in the decisions. I have no objection to the case being referred to the Full Bench.

The following are the judgments of the Full Bench:—

Norman, C. J.—In the present case, the defendant appears to be holding 18 beegahs of land under a tenure the conditions of which bind him to render certain services to the zemindar as a bearer. The zemindar brought a suit against the defendant, who set up that he held his land as lakheraj, or rent-free. The decree of the Appellate Court declared that the mâl rights of the zemindar had been established; that the defendant's claim to hold lakheraj should be set aside; that the zemindar's claim for khas possession and wassilat should be dismissed; and further declared that, if the ryot, that is, the defendant in the present case, failed to perform service as a bearer the zemindar would be at liberty to resume the land.

The present suit is brought by a person who purchased a 10-annas share of the putnee, and a one-anna share of the zemindaree to which the defendant's tenure was subordinate. The suit is brought for the purpose of obtaining a kubooleut for the annas as his proportion of the jumma or money-rent, which he supposes to be assessable on the land which was in the defendant's possession as service-land, service not being now required of him.

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'he point referred for our decision is :—

Whether a suit by the owner of a frac-nal share of an undivided estate for a ıbooleut will lie."

tenure is an entire thing. The obli-on to pay the rent reserved upon letting of land or in respect of the ure of land by a ryot is either a contract n obligation in the nature of a contract pay the rent. The obligation is single l entire. A tenant is not liable to have entire tenure sub-divided and split up inst his own will and to his own pre-ice, by any act on the part of the persons whom he is liable to pay rent. Again, contract or obligation to pay rent as a gle sum cannot be split up and sub-divided l converted into several obligations to different proportionate parts of the sum different individuals at the will of the ty to whom the rent is payable. But ll the obligors to whom the entire rent payable could not, against the will of the ant, increase the burden of the obliga-n by compelling the ryot to pay to several sons at different places and in separate portions, much less can one shareholder, o could not, in absence of the others, even alone to enforce the original obligation, intain a suit to compel the ryot to pay n a proportion of the debt. If such a t could be maintained, the greatest in-stice would be done to ryots. A ryot's dertaking is to pay his rent simply, not to pay to the several proprietors according to their shares. The ryot sued by a person who alleges himself to be entitled to a particular share of the rent has no means of knowing what are the rights of the different co-proprietors as amongst themselves. If he were sued and compelled to enter into a kubooleut for 8 annas of the rent by one co-proprietor, he might afterwards find that he had no answer when sued by another who alleged that he had a 10-annas share. I may say that, since I have sat in this Court, I have seen several instances in which ryots have been compelled by proceedings of an analogous character to pay 18 annas in the rupee.

I think it clear that, as a general rule, the holder of a tenure cannot be sued by owners of fractional shares in the superior tenure for separate kubooleuts according to the proportions to which they allege themselves to be entitled in the superior tenure.

In the case before us, for aught that I know, it may be that, while the 11 annas shareholder represented by the plaintiff wants a money-rent, the 5-annas shareholder may desire to be carried in his palkee.

I do not mean to say that, where a fractional share of an undivided estate is held by the subordinate tenant as a separate tenure, a suit for a kubooleut in respect of such fractional share of such estate will not lie against the tenant. Nor do I contend

that the several owners of shares in a zemindaree may not sue separately for proportions of rent payable to each of such owners in cases where the facts give rise to the presumption of an agreement by all parties that the rent should be paid in separate fractional shares to the several parties interested.

The party who caused this reference must pay two gold mohurs as costs.

Loch, J.—I desire to add a few words. It appears to me that, looking at the facts of this case, as they are now disclosed to us, we ought not to answer the question which has been referred to us, because it does not arise in the present case.

The zemindar sought to recover possession with mesne-profits. The tenant declared the land to be rent-free. The decree gained by the zemindar declared the land to be mâl, but refused to give possession and mesne-profits, and it declared the defendant entitled to possession so long as he performed the service for which the land was granted, but that, on his failure to do so, the zemindar might resume the land. There the matter rests. The zemindar did not resume. But the plaintiff, who is a purchaser from the zemindar, comes in and asks for a kubooleut from the tenant who is still in possession, and perfectly willing, so far as we know, to perform the service which he is required to render.

Under these circumstances, the question which has been referred to us does not arise, and I think we should decline to answ

Macpherson, J.—The circumstances fore us are so peculiar that the general qu tion referred to us can scarcely be said arise at all. I therefore desire to limit answer to the particular case which is before us. It is clear the plaintiff ca be entitled to a kubooleut, as Mr. Ju Loch has shown.

Bayley, J.—I am of the same opi with Mr. Justice Loch. I also think the question referred does not arise on facts stated in the plaint or in the dec Upon the facts as stated by the Chief J tice, I think it clear that a suit, as bro in the present case, would not lie.

Mitter, J.—I concur in the opinion pressed by Mr. Justice Loch. The referred to us does not arise on the admitted by the plaintiff, and I do not, fore, think myself bound to express opinion upon it. I wish to state, howe that, as a matter of principle, the holders of an undivided estate have right to divide a holding or tenure wi the consent of the tenant. The pay to each shareholder of his quota of rent is of itself no evidence of such cons although, when coupled with other facts circumstances, it may justify a Court justice in coming to the conclusion that tenant actually consented to the division his tenure into a corresponding number distinct holdings.

The 24th January 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief ustice*, and the Hon'ble J. B. Phear, *udge*.

ment—Limitation—Clauses 10 and 16, Section 1, Act XIV. of 1859.

ppeal from the decision of the Hon'ble W. arkby, exercising the Ordinary Original ivil Jurisdiction of the High Court.

S. J. Leslie (one of the Defendants), *Appellant*,

versus

nchanun Mitter (Plaintiff), *Respondent*.

Hyde and *Mr. Evans* for the Appellant.

Mr. Phillips for the Respondent.

plaintiff sued under an agreement, which was ted before the Registration Law came into effect, which he entered into the service of the de- nt, an attorney, and by which he agreed, amongst things, to advance the defendant such sums of y as he may request not exceeding 10,000 rupees time, and not exceeding the ⅔ths value of all bills, s,&c.,ofthedefendant'sbusiness, whichbills,stocks, the defendant was to make over to the plaintiff and rety, who were to have the custody of, and a lien on, ch bills, stocks, &c.; and the defendant was under ed to pay interest at 9 per cent. per annum on all ces made to him by the plaintiff.

LD that the suit was one for a breach of a con- in writing signed by the defendant to be bound by, within Clause 10, Section 1, Act XIV. of 1859; s the document could not be registered at the time execution, the period of limitation applicable to it ears under Clause 16 of that Section.

HIS was a suit by the plaintiff founded on greement, dated the 9th April 1864, the s of which ran as follow:—

rticles of agreement made and entered in- etween Sheppard John Leslie of Calcutta, citor of the first part, Punchanun Mitter Baranossey Ghose's Street in Calcutta of second part, and Sreemutty Prosono Coo- ee Dossee of Rutton Sircar's Garden Street Calcutta, wife of Nilmoney Mullick of the d part, witnesseth—

First.—That the said Punchanun Mitter shall and will employ himself for the term of twelve months from the 1st day of April 1864 as cashier and accountant to the said Sheppard John Leslie, and shall and will retain and keep under him an establishment consisting of a native cashier, two collecting sircars, and one durwan, and shall and will devote his whole time to such employment.

Second.—That the said Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee shall and will stand, and be security for the Punchanun Mitter, and shall and will make good any losses sustained by the said Sheppard John Leslie on account, neglect, or default of the said Punchanun Mitter.

Third.—That the said Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee shall and will be securities for the said cash establishment of the said Punchanun Mitter, and shall make good all losses sustained by the said Sheppard John Leslie by reason of any act, default, or neglect of the said cash establishment or any of them.

Fourth.—That the said Punchanun Mitter shall receive from the said Sheppard John Leslie monthly, and every month during the continuance of these presents, the sum of Rupees 250 for his personal allowances and for his said cash establishment, which said salary is to be paid on the 15th of every succeeding month.

Fifth.—That such cash establishment shall be appointed by the said Punchanun Mitter with the consent of the said Sheppard John Leslie, and shall be liable to dismissal or fine at the option of the said Sheppard John Leslie, and all fines which the said Sheppard John Leslie may impose on sufficient cause being shown shall be deducted from the said monthly sum of Rupees 250.

Sixth.—That the said Punchanun Mitter and Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee shall, from time to time, on requisition being made to either of them, advance to the said Sheppard John Leslie such sums of money as he may request, provided there shall be at no one time a larger sum due by the Sheppard John-

Leslie on account of such advances than three-fourths value of all bills, stocks, and other property which the said Sheppard John Leslie will make over to the said Punchanun Mitter and Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee; provided also that the said advance shall not exceed in total at one time Rupees 10,000.

Seventh.—That the said Sheppard John Leslie shall pay interest on all such advances at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, and that the said Punchanun Mitter and Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee shall have lien for all such advances on all bills, stocks, and other property of the said Sheppard John Leslie, which the said Punchanun Mitter and Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee shall have in their custody as security for such advances. The said Sheppard John Leslie will be at liberty to realize such bills and sell such stock as he shall deem necessary, provided the money will be paid to Sreemuty Prosono Coomaree Dossee and Punchanun Mitter in payment of such advances: should there be any surplus money remaining after the settlement of the account, such money will be credited to the account of the said Sheppard John Leslie.

Eighth.—That monthly accounts shall be delivered to the said Sheppard John Leslie of all bills delivered to the said Cash Department for realization, and of the amount realized and of the cash dealings and transactions of the office of the said Sheppard John Leslie. Dated this ninth day of April one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

S. J. LESLIE.
PUNCHANUN MITTER.
SREEMUTTY PROSONO COOMAREE DOSSEE.

The plaintiff alleged that he fulfilled the terms of the agreement in every particular, and that he advanced certain sums aggregating Rupees 7,736-4-3 to the defendant in accordance with the agreement, against which he received from the defendant payments for principal and interest amounting altogether to Rupees 2,200. The balance due to the plaintiff on the advances made by him and interest thereon, after giving credit for the sums received from Leslie, was Rupees 8,938-12-3. The plaintiff further claimed Rupees 1,754-8 for salary from April 1864 to August 1864. He accordingly sued for the total sum of Rupees 1,069-4-3 under the agreement, and also as money owing to him by the defendant, for money lent to the defendant, and for work and labor done by plaintiff for the defendant Leslie at his request, and for money paid by the plaintiff to the use of the defendant at his request, for interest, and for money fo due by the defendant to the plaintiff upon account stated between them.

The defendant admitted the agreement and which the plaintiff entered into his servi but alleged that the plaintiff did not fu several of the terms of the agreement, that he absented himself frequently fr his duties. The defendant further plead that the suit was barred by limitation.

The judgment of Markby, J., at the original trial was as follows:—

I think that the objection on the stat of limitation has failed. The case is o which falls under a very peculiar rule l down in several cases which are referred in Thomson on the Law of Limitation (p 144 of the last edition), which lay down th as no period is fixed by Clause 10, Section Act XIV. of 1859, within which suits may brought for breach of a contract, which co not be registered by any law in force at time of its execution, the law of limitati applicable to such suits is Clause 16; a there is no contention that this is not a co tract which could be registered. I, therefo think that the Clause which is applicable Clause 16. But the argument of Mr. Eva is that this is a suit not upon that written co tract, because there is no express provision th the advances will be repaid, and that it must either upon a contract implied from the agre ment or from the advance itself. He co tends that any stipulation which is to be i plied from a written contract is not itself, stipulation for which there is a written e gagement. It has been contended that this similar to the case of a mortgage where the is no express covenant to repay the mon advanced, and that in that case, if there any implied contract, it is not a specialty de I do not, however, see the analogy between th two cases. The case Mr. Evans referred to is that of Ivens *versus* Elwes, 1 Jurist N. S page 6. That case seems to me rather to against the view which he contends for The question there was whether the recit under seal that the debt was due ma the debt which otherwise was not due in a specialty-debt. The only question which was considered by the Vice-Chancellor w what was the intention of the parties. H seems to intimate that, if, according to the tru construction of the deed, the debt could b considered to be as declared to be due, h would have so held, although there was n special covenant to pay. It seems to me th

is view is supported by the case of Wood *versus* The Governors and Company of Copper miners in England, 17 C. B., Old Series, 906. ere it was held that even in the case of speialty what must be looked to was not the particular words but the intention of the parties.

However that may be in a case in which the estion arises on a deed, I have no doubt that that is so where the question arises on a written contract. Looking to the intention the parties, I have no doubt that it was ir intention, an intention which I think is arly though not expressly stated, that the intiff should lend money to Mr. Leslie, whenever Mr. Leslie required it, up to a cer- amount, that he was to repay himself m the fees as they were collected, and that Leslie should pay him the balance. I k there is no difference between an engagement which is implied from a written contract an express written contract; an express ntion and an implied intention are the e when once the intention is ascertained. e real question is what is the real intention the parties.

In accordance, therefore, with the decision to ich I have referred, I hold that this case s within Clause 16 of the Limitation Act, d that plaintiff had six years to sue.

As regards the salary claimed by the intiff, I am of opinion that there is no ten engagement on the part of Mr. Leslie ay anything which accrued due for salary r the 31st March 1865; and if plaintiff nt on after that, it must be under some other thority than has been put forward in this . I don't read the letter of the 10th of cember 1867 as containing any acknowledgment by Mr. Leslie that such salary was due. e letter seems to me to express a desire on the t of Mr. Leslie to be informed what the l nature of the claim was, and he reserved himself the right to resist any claim which y be made.

The Court then made the usual order rering the case to Chambers for the purpose taking the accounts between the parties. e correspondence on the pleadings was mitted on both sides. The question of ts was reserved till after the accounts were tled.

On the appeal, Hyde and Evans for the pellant contended that the case fell, not under Clause 16, but under Clause 9 Section 1, Act IV. of 1859. As to whether a debt was specialty debt or nor, they cited Wynch and Grant, 2 Dreury 312; Adey and Arnold, 2 De Gex Macnaghten and Gordon 432; and Ivens and Elwes, 1 Jurist, N. S., 6.

Phillips for the respondent was not called upon.

The judgment of the Appellate Court was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—This is a suit by Punchanun Mitter against Sheppard John Leslie, who is an attorney of this Court, to recover Rupees 8,938-12-3 for moneys lent, and Rupees 1,754-8 for salary. The salary appears to be barred by limitation, but Mr. Justice Markby has made a decree in favor of the plaintiff for the amount of moneys advanced to Mr. Leslie, subject to an account. From that decision Mr Leslie has appealed, and I propose to state very shortly the facts on which the question raised by the appeal turns, *viz.*, whether the claim of the plaintiff for moneys advanced by him is barred by limitation.

On the 9th April 1864, Mr. Leslie entered into an agreement with the plaintiff Punchanun Mitter and one Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee, by which Punchanun Mitter engaged to employ himself as cashier and accountant of Mr. Leslie, to keep under him an establishment consisting of a native cashier, 2 collecting sircars, and one durwan, and to devote his whole time to such employment. Prosono Coomaree Dossee was to be the surety for Punchanun Mitter. Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee further engaged that they would, from time to time, on requisition made to either of them, pay to Mr. Leslie such sums of money as he might request, subject to the following provisions: "There "shall be at no one time a larger sum due "by Mr. Sheppard John Leslie on account of "such advances" then three-fourths value "of all bills, stocks, and other property, "which the said Sheppard John Leslie "will make over to the said Punchanun "Mitter and Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree "Dossee. Provided also that the said *advance* "*shall not exceed in total at one time Rupees* "*ten thousand.*" There was also an agreement that Mr. Leslie should pay interest on all advances at the rate of 9 per cent., and that Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee "shall have a lien for all "such advances on all bills, stocks, and other "property of the said Sheppard John Leslie, "which the said Punchanun Mitter and "Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee shall "have in their custody as security for such "advances. The said Sheppard John Leslie "will be at liberty to realize such bills and

"sell such stock as he shall deem necessary, provided the money will be paid to "Sreemutty Prosono Coomaree Dossee and "Punchanun Mitter in payment of such advances; should there be any surplus money "remaining after the settlement of the account, such money will be credited to the "account of the said Sheppard John Leslie."

That agreement was made on the 9th of April 1864 before the Registration Act of 1864 came into operation. The last items in the account are in December 1864. The suit was brought on the 22nd February 1870, nearly six years after the cause of action arose. The appellant contends that the suit is barred under the 9th and 10th Clauses of Section 1 of Act XIV. of 1859. We must therefore see whether the suit is for the breach of any contract in writing signed by the party to be bound thereby. The money is due under a contract by Mr. Leslie. Was that contract in writing? The money was advanced under a contract, and that contract contains a condition or agreement for the re-payment of the same by Mr. Leslie. Now, on looking at the contract between the parties as reduced into writing, the first thing which it is necessary to observe is this, that Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee are to *advance*, that is to say, to place in Mr. Leslie's hands, money which Mr. Leslie is to *hold upon the terms of a loan*, that is to say, subject to a condition for re-payment on demand. The next point is that, while that money is forborne to Mr. Leslie by Punchanun Mitter, it is to be forborne on terms which expressly stipulated it is to be forborne on the terms of carrying interest at 9 per cent. to be paid by Mr. Leslie to Punchanun Mitter. Thirdly, the money is to be held by Mr. Leslie on condition that Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee are to have a lien, for the re-payment of it, on all bills, stocks, and other property of Mr. Leslie, which Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee should have in their custody as security for the advances; and, lastly, it is provided that Leslie may himself realize such bills and sell such stocks as may be necessary, provided the money be paid to Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee in payment of such advances. Now, it is not necessary, in order to constitute an agreement in writing, that that agreement in writing should be expressed in a particular form of words. In order to make an agreement, it is not necessary to use the words "I agree" or "I promise" or "I stipulate." If the agreement can be collected from the written instrument, and if it can be gathered that the party has bound himself by such instrument, *that*, if the instrument is under seal, amounts to a covenant, or, if the instrument is not under seal, to an agreement.

There are two old cases which illustrate this. One is in Carthew's Reports, p. 135. The case there was this. There the plaintiff lessor demised a house to the defendant for years "yielding and paying a certain rent, free and clear "from all manner of taxes, charges, and impositions whatsoever," and it was held that the words "yielding and paying," &c., made a covenant, and that the lessor was discharged from payment of all taxes imposed by Act of Parliament and long after the commencement of the lease, and that the lessee was bound to pay the whole rent without any deduction for any old or new charge or imposition whatsoever. Several similar cases are quoted in Comyn's Digest, Title Covenant, A 4. In the Duke of St. Albans *vs.* Ellis, 16 East 352, it was held that "under a covenant by the lessee to plough the premises in a due course of husbandry, *except* the rabbit warren and sheep walk, an implied covenant *not* to plough those portions arises."

Now, I think it impossible to doubt that when Mr. Leslie executed this instrument as he did, he agreed that the money paid by Punchanun Mitter and Prosono Coomaree Dossee to him should be received by him as an advance; that until re-payment was made, he should be liable to pay for the use of the money, on the forbearance of the creditor, interest at 9 per cent.; that he bound himself to hold the money as a person to whom money is lent holds it, namely, on condition of re-payment on demand. I think that the case falls within the meaning of the words in Clause 10 Section 1, and that there was a contract in writing signed by the party to be bound thereby of which there has been a breach, and as the written contract could not be registered at the time it was entered into, I think that

Justice Markby was right in holding that period of limitation applicable to it is six rs.

The effect will be that the appeal will be missed with costs.

The 30th January 1871.

Present:

Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble J. B. Phear, *Judge.*

ree-holder—Release—Adjustment of Decree —Section 206, Act VIII. of 1859.

Appeal from an order of the Hon'ble W. Markby, exercising the Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction of the High Court.

obun Mohun Banerjee (Plaintiff), *Decree-holder,*

versus

dhoo Churn Sircar (Defendant), *Judgment-debtor.*

Mr. Kennedy for the Appellant.

The Respondent appeared in person.

he plaintiff, decree-holder, realized from the judg-nt-debtor a portion of his decree through the Court, d subsequently gave the judgment-debtor a letter in ch he stated that he released him from the balance. Held that this letter, having been given without con-ration and purely from motives of compassion, did amount to a release. The only way in which an ad-ment of a decree can be effected is through the rt under Section 206, Act VIII. of 1859, and the mere that the plaintiff admits that he told the defendant he would not execute the rest of the decree is not certification of an adjustment of the decree.

THE plaintiff obtained a decree in this case the 15th of July 1867, for the sum of pees 5,102-5-6 with interest, and costs of which were taxed by the Taxing Officer this Court at Rupees 581-3. By an er of this Court he received Rupees 33-13-9 in part-satisfaction of his decree, d in June 1870 he applied that notice der Section 216 of Act VIII. of 1859 served on the defendants to show cause y the decree should not be executed against em.

The defendant Sadhoo Churn Sircar ac-rdingly showed cause and put in an affida-t in which he admitted the decree, but he t out in that affidavit a letter, by which, he ntended, the plaintiff had promised not to ke out further execution against him. That tter was in the following terms:—

'Sree Sadhoo Churn Sircar!

"You will learn by this letter that on the money which you borrowed from me and with which you opened a shop in Calcutta in the name of Doorgadoss Sircar becoming due, I instituted a suit against you and Doorgadoss Sircar, and obtained a decree for the sum: after deducting what was realized, the balance which is due from your share, I release you from: you will never have to give the said balance. If to this I or any of my heirs ever raise any objections or claim, it shall be inadmissible: it cannot be realized. 3rd Bysack 1275."

The application of the plaintiff for execution was refused with liberty to him to apply again. Plaintiff accordingly renewed his application on the 15th July 1870, when he urged that he did not, at the time of his giving the defendant, Sadhoo Churn Sircar, the letter on which the latter relied, or at any other time either before or since the giving of such letter, receive any consideration for the same either from the defendant Sadhoo Churn Sircar or from any person or persons whomsoever on his behalf. He further said that, subsequent to the date of the letter, he personally frequently applied to the defendant Sadhoo Churn Sircar for payment on account of the decree, and that on all such occasions the defendant stated that he was unable to comply with the plaintiff's request.

The defendant showed cause once more, and Markby, J., on the 29th August 1870, refused the plaintiff's application on the following grounds:—

There being in this case a formal release from the debt as formal (as far as I am aware) as could be given according to the custom of Hindoos, I think I ought not to allow execution to issue, and treat that release as a nullity merely upon the statement that no consideration passed. My present opinion is that, even if that be so, the release would not be inoperative. The application is dismissed with costs.

The plaintiff appealed from the above order, on the grounds that the learned Judge was mistaken in holding that the letter in question was a good and binding release to the defendant, and that it was a bar to any further execution in this suit against the defendant, and he contended that it was not of any effect whatever to prevent the issue of execution, as no consideration had been given therefor.

The judgment of the Appellate Bench was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—In this case the plaintiff obtained a decree for 5,102 rupees odd

annas with costs, amounting to Rupees 581-3-0, against Sadhoo Churn Sircar, Ram Lall Mitter, and Doorgadoss Sircar, described as carrying on business as marine store dealers under the style or firm of Doorgadoss Sircar and Company. The decree was dated the 2nd August 1867. On the 13th May 1867, the Sheriff attached certain property of the defendants. After decree, the Sheriff was directed to sell the property which he had attached. He did so, and brought the money into Court, and by an order of Court, dated 19th November 1867, the plaintiff received from the Comptroller-General of Accounts the sum of Rupees 1,833-13-9 on account and in part-satisfaction of his decree. On the 3rd Bysack 1276 (15th April 1868), plaintiff, at the request of the defendant Sadhoo Churn Sircar, gave him a letter in Bengalee, of which the following is a translation: "You "will learn by this letter that on the money "which you borrowed from me, and with "which you opened a shop in Calcutta in the "name of Doorgadoss Sircar becoming due, "I instituted a suit against you and Doorga-"doss Sircar, and obtained a decree for the "sum; after deducting what was realized, the "balance which is due from your share, I "release you from: you will never have to "give the said balance. If to this I or any "of my heirs ever raise any objection or "claim, it shall be inadmissible; it cannot be "realized. 3rd Bysack 1275." Now, it seems clear that there was no consideration whatever for the writing of this letter by plaintiff. It was given freely, voluntarily, a gratuitous act, the plaintiff being influenced at the time it was written, according to the statement of defendant himself, by motives of compassion. The plaintiff afterwards applied to this Court for execution of his decree against the defendant, Sadhoo Churn Sircar, without making any mention of the letter which he had written to him. The decree being more than a year old, the defendant had an opportunity of showing cause why the decree should not be executed against him; and by a verified petition he stated that this letter had been written. The application for execution, which was made before me, was then refused upon the ground that it was the duty of the plaintiff to disclose to the Court fully all the circumstances which he knew, which could have any influence on the mind of the Court in determining whether execution should issue. Leave was given to the plaintiff to renew his application, which he did; and upon that application Mr. Justice Markby refused leave to plaintiff to execute his decree, treating the letter of the 3rd Bysack 1275 as a release. From that refusal the plaintiff has appealed.

We are of opinion that the letter in question was not in effect a release. In the first place, there is no consideration of any sort or kind for giving up the debt. If it had been that, in consideration of the defendant's going among his friends and raising money to pay part of the decree, the plaintiff gave up the remainder of the decree, I am of opinion that that would have been binding on the plaintiff, and he could not now execute the decree. But as I have already said, that is not the character of the transaction. Whatever had been realized from the defendant had been taken out of Court many months before the date of the letter. It could only operate if some effect could be given to it analogous to that of a release under seal. The mode in which an adjustment of a decree can be made is pointed out by Section 206, Act VIII. of 185[illegible]. Now, Section 206 says that "no adjustment "of a decree in part or in whole shall be "recognized by the Court, unless such ad-"justment be made through the Court." I think, if the plaintiff had come before the Court, and said that he was satisfied with half of the amount of the decree, and requested that satisfaction should be entered as to the remainder, or asked that it should be noted that he had agreed not to take further proceedings as to the residue, it would have been sufficient. The adjustment made through the Court or recorded in Court might have had the effect of a release. The Section proceeds "Or be certified to the Court by the person "whose favor the decree has been made, or "whom it has been transferred." If a binding agreement had been certified to the Court, I think that it would have been enough. But the mere fact that the plaintiff admits that he told the defendant that he would not execute the rest of the decree is not the certification of an adjustment of the decree. The plaintiff, at the same time, says that he makes the admission: "I am not legally "bound by my promise. I do not admit that "the decree is adjusted or settled." In my opinion, the letter in this case did not operate as a release to the defendant.

The result will be that the order of the first Court will be reversed, and execution will issue. The costs of the application to Mr. Justice Markby as an ordinary application will be allowed, but there will be no costs of this appeal, as the plaintiff has brought himself into the difficulty by writing the letter.

The 2nd February 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. C. Paul, *Judge*.

Title—Separate property—Joint family.

Appeal from the judgment of the Hon'ble J. B. Phear, exercising the Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction of the High Court.

Sreenarain Chuckerbutty (Plaintiff), *Appellant*,

versus

B. Miller, Official Assignee (Defendant), *Respondent*.

Messrs. *Graham* and *Marindin* for the Appellant.

Messrs. *Kennedy* and *Evans* for the Respondent.

The Official Assignee having attached certain immove-e property as the exclusive property of A, the judg-nt-debtor of an estate represented by him, the intiff (one of the brothers of A), unsuccessfully imed the property under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, d subsequently brought the present suit against the ficial Assignee for a declaration of his right to the pro-rty, on the ground that it was his own and self-ac-ired property, of which he had been in separate pos-sion. The plaintiff and his witnesses were examined support of his case, but the Official Assignee adduced evidence whatever.

Held by Phear, J., in the Original Court, that the intiff was bound to prove the specific title which he up, and that, as the evidence on his side was untrust-rthy, his suit should be dismissed *in toto*, even ough it appeared that the plaintiff had some interest the property as a member of a joint Hindoo family, such interest could not be ascertained in the present it in which the plaintiff claimed the property as his le and exclusive property.

The judgment of Phear, J., confirmed in appeal by orman, C. J., (Paul, J., dissenting) without prejudice the right of the plaintiff and his brothers to bring other suit to establish their right to their shares this property as being joint family property.

THE allegations of the plaintiff in this it were as follow. He stated that he is one the sons of Suroop Chunder Chuckerbut-, who, shortly before his death, made a par-tion of his estate. The share of plaintiff, who was then a minor, together with the share of two other minor brothers, Trilochun and Rashbeharee, was made over to Raj-coomaree Dabee, their mother, who retained possession thereof. The plaintiff and his two minor brothers lived with their mother, separate in estate, food, and worship from the other five sons of Suroop Chunder Chucker-butty. The plaintiff, Trilochun, and Rash-beharee, received their shares of the property from their mother, and remained joint in estate, food, and worship until the death of Rashbeharee, and then of Trilochun. In the year 1834, and subsequent to the partition, the plaintiff advanced moneys to Rajnarain Bose and three others, who were unable to re-pay the same; and in consideration of the advances so made, they conveyed to Trilochun and Rashbeharee—benamee for the plaintiff—two houses in Calcutta, the moneys advanced being the sole property of the plaintiff. The plaintiff continued in undisturbed possession of the said premises from the date of the purchase till the 7th of September 1869, when the premises were attached by the defendant in this suit in execution of a decree obtained by Thomas & Co. against Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty, brother of the plaintiff, and one of the eight sons of Suroop Chunder Chuckerbutty. By another order of September 1869, the High Court ordered the sale of the said property, and the plaintiff accordingly brought this suit against the defendant, as the Official Assignee and Assignee of the estate of Thomas & Co., for a declaration that he is entitled to the property in suit, and that he has an absolute interest in the same. He also asked for an injunction to restrain the defendant from selling the premises, or any part thereof, and from in any way interfering with the same.

The defendant alleged that the plaintiff is one of the younger brothers of Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty, against whom Thomas & Co., whose estate the defendant now represented, obtained a decree for Rupees 23,324-10-8 on the 16th of June 1865 with costs. In execution of that decree, certain immoveable property of the judgment-debtor, Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty in Moorshedabad, was attached on three several occasions; but those attachments came to nothing, as the decree-holders either withdrew or did not prosecute the attachment, on objections made by Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty. In September 1869 the property, subject-matter of this suit—being two houses in Calcutta—were attached by the defendant as the property of Mirtunjoy Chuck-erbutty, when the plaintiff filed a claim

under Section 246, Act VIII. of 1859, claiming the houses as his own absolute property. The claim was investigated by the High Court on the 18th February 1870, and was dismissed with costs. The defendant then went on to refer to another suit, in which Mr. Cochrane, as Assignee of the estate of Hickey Bailey & Co., obtained a decree in 1849 against the same judgment-debtor for one lakh of rupees, and to the ineffectual attempts which were made to execute that decree. The present defendant also seized certain property in Jungypore in Moorshedabad in execution of the last mentioned decree, and the judgment-debtor's objections were dismissed, although he carried those objections in appeal to the High Court. Thereupon the plaintiff and his younger brothers, Bunkobehary and Rajnarain, claimed the property as their own, but their claims were also dismissed. The plaintiff then filed a suit in Berhampore against this defendant in respect of the said property, which in the meantime was advertised for sale on the 17th January 1870. Finally, the defendant denies that the two houses for which the plaintiff's present suit is brought were ever in the plaintiff's possession, but he avers that they are the sole and absolute property of Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty, who, the defendant alleges, transferred them into the names of his brother, for the express purpose of preventing the defendant from enforcing the decrees which have been obtained against him.

The judgment of the Original Court in this case was as follows:—

Phear, J.—There is no doubt that in this case the plaintiff must strictly prove his title. For the purpose of doing so, he puts forward a conveyance which does not purport to be a conveyance to him. He must very clearly make out that the ostensible vendees, under this conveyance, were from the beginning nothing more than his benameedars. It appears to me, in the first place, to be *à priori* probable, that if the vendees were benameedars at all they were benameedars for the whole family. But plaintiff undertakes to prove his case by satisfying the Court that he bought the property with his own funds, and that, from the time of purchase, it has been in his sole enjoyment. Of course, the first involves showing the Court the mode in which he got the funds. He says that part of the funds he inherited from his father, and part he got from a large sum which he won in a lottery. The portion which he got from his father seemed to be by virtue of some alleged partition, but there is nothing beyond his own word to support the factum of a partition. Perhaps this is not in itself very important, for if the partition did really occur it took place so many years ago, and enjoyment under it has continued so long, that possibly the documents of partition were not in any great degree to be expected to be put forward. But I think with regard to the other portion, *viz.*, the fund which he obtained from the lottery, the matter is very different. He certainly might have produced to the Court evidence of primary importance with regard to the winning of the prize. Indeed, he himself says that if the Bank of Bengal people were here with the papers these would show he was the winner of the prize. But it lay on him to bring this circumstance before the Court. He has not done so; and as far as I understand from his testimony, notwithstanding that the title to this property has been in question on other occasions, it is only lately that he has publicly stated that he got the funds by means of this prize in the lottery. He admits that in the claim-cases he did not come forward himself to support his claim by his own testimony. On the whole, I cannot avoid the conclusion that this story of the mode in which he got the money for making the purchase is not a true story.

Then as to the other branch of his title, *viz.*, that which consists of the use and enjoyment of the property by himself alone, there is here again nothing more really than his own word; for the testimony of the tenant who paid the rent from time to time, is quite as consistent with joint enjoyment by other members of the family as with sole enjoyment by himself, and the principal witness (Shamsoonder) who gives his evidence on the side of the plaintiff, if he can be relied upon at all, would certainly lead me to think that the enjoyment and management of the property was ijmalee to an extent far beyond the three brothers, *viz.*, the plaintiff and the two vendees of this property.

I do not, however, think that either the plaintiff or Shamsoonder ought to be trusted. They did not appear to me to be the honest witnesses of truth, and their testimony has not the corroboration which might be given to it if it were true.

It seems to me, therefore, that the plaintiff has not established his right to recover pos-

ssion of this property. He may have had one time, and perhaps even now has, some re in it; but if so, I am unable to say at share; and this besides is not the case ich he comes into Court to prove. I am opinion that I ought to dismiss the plaint h costs No. 2.

e plaintiff appealed from the above judgment on the following grounds :—

1.—For that on the evidence the plaint- ought to have been declared entitled to relief prayed with the usual costs of it.

2.—For that the judgment and decree re against the weight of evidence.

3.—For that the plaintiff gave sufficient oof of his separate right and title to the operty seized by the defendant, and that re was no evidence to show or to lead to inference that Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty, execution-debtor, had any right or inter- therein jointly with the plaintiff or other- ise.

The judgments of the Appellate Court were delivered as follow :—

Paul, J.—In this case I have formed a very ear opinion that the appeal should be al- wed. I have the misfortune to differ from e Chief Justice, and I, therefore, express my inion with the greatest possible distrust, t still, being clearly of opinion that the peal should be allowed, I consider I should press it.

In this case it appears that Mr. Miller, the ficial Assignee, representing the estate of essrs. Thomas & Co., had a judgment ainst one Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty. In ex- ution of that judgment, he attached the operty now in dispute as being the se- rate property of Mirtunjoy. Owing to t attachment, the plaintiff, who is the other of Mirtunjoy, puts in his claim. The im was allowed to be filed, and it came for hearing when, as I understand, all the itnesses who were examined in the present se were examined with the exception of the laintiff. Under Act VIII. of 1859, a person ho resists an attachment and a sale pursu- nt to attachment, is required to show he is possession of the attached property as his wn. In this the plaintiff failed. I, of course, cannot pronounce any opinion as to the na- ture of that failure, but I must take it as a fact that the plaintiff failed to satisfy the Judge that he was in possession of the property as his own. The result of that failure was the institution of the present suit. The plaintiff in his plaint and written statement claims the property which had been attached as his own property, and his claim is resisted by the defendant in his written statement, on the ground that the property is not the plaintiff's property, but the sole property of his brother Mirtunjoy. Act VIII. of 1859 prescribes that the matter in issue shall be collected from the written statements of the parties, and the conflict which was thus raised in and by their written statements between the plaintiff and the defendant, as to whether the ownership of the property lay in the plaintiff or in Mirtunjoy, in my opinion, could only lead to one issue, *viz.*, whether the property in suit belonged to Sreenarain or to Mirtunjoy. Unfortunately, in this case a very wide issue was raised, *viz.*, whether the plaintiff was entitled to recover. It is unnecessary to criticise the terms of this issue, because it is clear that it is not an issue at all. In every case a plaintiff must establish his right to recover before he can obtain judgment. But inasmuch as the parties before the Lower Court probably well understood the point in dispute, it is unnecessary to make any further remarks thereon. I think it is quite clear, as was shown by Mr. Marindin, that defendant well understood that the real issue between him and the plaintiff was whether the plaintiff or the defendant was the owner of the property which had been attached, and it was owing to this that there was no cross-examination on the other point, which is the only point now made by the respondents in answer to this appeal, that the facts and circumstances show that the property is the joint property of Sreenarain, Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty, and their other brothers. I am quite willing to admit that, if on such an issue it turned out that some other persons were entitled in the subject-matter of the suit, it might be necessary under Section 73 of Act VIII. of 1859 to make them parties; but I do not yield to the objection of the defendant that it is competent to him now to contend that the property was not the sole property of the plaintiff, but the joint property of the plaintiff and his brothers, merely on vague inferences to be drawn from the evidence of the plaintiff and the gomashta Shamsoonder, who have in their evidence here and there incidentally stated a few meagre circumstances relating to the original state of the family at the time of the death of the ancestor. I further maintain that this contention is at variance with the defendant's

written statement and the whole conduct of his defence as shown upon the cross-examination of the plaintiff's witnesses.

In this case the appellant's case presents no difficulty to my mind, but the only difficulty which is raised is that raised by the respondent to the effect that the whole of the plaintiff's case must be disbelieved without there being a single *iota* of evidence to put against it. If the plaintiff's story had been of a marvellous character, or if it had been in conflict with one's ordinary experience of life, I might have been called upon to disbelieve it *in toto;* but I find it difficult to disbelieve the evidence of the several witnesses, some of whom are entirely independent witnesses, merely on suspicion and conjecture. It must not be forgotten that in this country a true case is very often exaggerated; but if, where we can separate the truth from the falsehood, we are still to dismiss the suit, the result would be that a great many plaintiffs would fail in their suit. It is an inherent defect in human nature for the parties to a suit to endeavour to prove as much as possible in support of their case and to exaggerate their own case, and consequently, in dealing with the evidence of parties and partisan witnesses, it is necessary to be cautious. I am quite willing to admit in favor of the respondent that the difficulty of the Official Assignee to reach the property of Mirtunjoy ought to induce me to scrutinize the case with caution and care. Scrutinizing the evidence adduced on behalf of the plaintiff carefully, and having no evidence offered on the part of the defendant to set against it, I am of opinion that, after making due allowances for exaggerations and falsehoods, there is a substantial residuum of truth contained in the plaintiff's case which is sufficient to entitle him to a verdict.

I shall now advert to the broad facts proved on behalf of the plaintiff. The plaintiff states and proves by the evidence of his servants and tenants, who are wholly disinterested persons, that he was the ostensible landlord of the premises for 12 or 14 years, and that he duly received the rents which were remitted to him to his country-residence at Jungypore. The plaintiff swears that he was the real owner, having no co-sharer in the property. The title, as originally obtained in the year 1241, was taken in the name of the plaintiff's younger brothers, who have since died; but in the year 1859, the plaintiff bought a portion of the neighbouring lands, and took a conveyance to himself in his own name. From the circumstances, I consider it proved that the last few years, so far as the history of the property in suit goes, the plaintiff was the recipient of the rents of the property in dispute, and exercised acts of ownership with regard to it. The learned Judge seems to believe the testimony which proves that the plaintiff was regarded by the tenants as their landlord, but he counteracts the effect of it by saying that it is as consistent with the property being in plaintiff as in the joint family. There is consequently no conflict between the learned Judge and myself with respect to this evidence; we both believe it. The learned Judge of the Court below bases the point of that evidence, by considering it in conjunction with an opinion entertained by him, that the plaintiff was a member of a joint Hindoo family possessing joint property. I look upon that evidence according to its natural and ordinary meaning and import, and I decline to consider it along with the presumption of law arising from the fact of the plaintiff being a member of a joint family, because I am of opinion, as I shall presently show, that the fact of the plaintiff being a member of a joint Hindoo family possessing joint property is not substantiated in this case, and hence no presumption of law arises to which I am called upon to subject the plain fact of a *prima facie* ownership proved by the plaintiff. The presumption that any parcel of property is to be supposed to be purchased from joint funds depends on certain facts. Too much has been made of this presumption in our Courts. Now, it is clear where A and B, members of a Hindoo family, are possessed of joint property of such character and magnitude that other property can be acquired thereout, and it is not shown that A and B have separate property, then the presumption is that property subsequently purchased by either of them was purchased from joint funds. The presumption of law as to property being joint until the contrary is proved is not of a magical character such as is too commonly attributed to it, but it is the fair ordinary and common sense inference or presumption arising from the assumed or proved antecedent facts Mr. Graham has cited cases in which it has been laid down that a person who relies on the presumption of law in respect of joint property must start it, and he can only start it by showing the existence of joint property out of which the disputed property could be acquired. It has been

held in several cases that commensality is not sufficient for the purpose of raising the presumption of law in favor of joint acquisition.

Now, in this case, it was no part of defendant's case that the property was joint property—nothing was pointedly made as to that. The only evidence is the evidence of the plaintiff, who says that 50 years back his father died, leaving a house and cash. Besides this, there is no evidence as to ancestral assets. As to the ancestral or family dwelling-house, it is immaterial whether it has been held, occupied, and enjoyed as joint or separate property. It is only a place where the parties reside, and has not furnished, nor can it well be supposed to furnish, funds as a source from which subsequent purchases or accretions could arise. With regard to the cash, the only evidence is that of the plaintiff, and he says he received, when he came of age about 35 years ago, Rupees 3,000 or 3,500 separately as his share of the joint estate left by his father. Now, it is said that in this case I must believe that part of the plaintiff's story that there was some cash as joint property, and disbelieve the rest of his story which states that he received his share separately. Now, the story of the cash is told as it were in one sentence, namely, of the cash or personal property the plaintiff received as his separate share Rupees 3,000 or 3,500. If this part of the plaintiff's statement is to be treated as evidence, the whole of it must be read; and though I may, if I find very cogent reasons, believe a portion and reject the rest, I must be careful neither to believe nor reject fancifully. I can find nothing in the case which enables me to accept one portion of the statement, that there was cash or joint personal property, and reject the part which states that the same was divided, and the plaintiff's share handed to him; but I find in this case many circumstances which tend to show that the latter part of the plaintiff's statement is true.

I find on the evidence that the plaintiff and Mirtunjoy carried on separate silk-business; that the Official Assignee in this and in other instances has seized property as the sole property of Mirtunjoy Chuckerbutty; and that Mirtunjoy was sued alone on account of his silk-transactions by Hickie, Baillie, and Co. These circumstances, which are undoubted facts, tend to corroborate the plaintiff's story that he was separate in estate and business; and if so, the separation must have taken place some time or other. The defendant suggests no period of time, but the plaintiff swears to a particular period of time; and if I am to reject this, I can only do so fancifully, and on mere conjecture and suspicion. This I cannot do. I therefore say that the plaintiff has satisfied me that there were never any joint funds, out of which the property in question could have been purchased; that the plaintiff carried on separate business of his own; and that he must be considered to have purchased, and to have been the owner of the property in suit from his dealing in regard to it, and his reception of the rents for the last 12 or 14 years. I arrive at these conclusions without troubling myself about the truth or otherwise of the part of the case regarding the lottery-ticket—the prize of a lakh of rupees obtained by the plaintiff—as to which I form no opinion on the evidence adduced.

There is one other point, *viz.*, that there were no books produced by the plaintiff. On that point there was no cross-examination; and if there had been, the plaintiff might have given a reasonable explanation regarding it. The plaintiff was not bound to produce the books, which under Act II. of 1855 are only corroborative evidence. But when the plaintiff shows that he began and carried on a separate business, and he actually entered into a separate transaction, as evidenced by the agreement of the Boses with him personally in the year 1241, why should I believe that the purchase of the property was a merely colorable transaction and benamee for himself and members of his family? The books further might have shown that the collections from Calcutta were entered as received "through self," and thus the collections would not be ear-marked. If the case had been a false one, there would have been no difficulty in concocting a few books.

Then, with regard to what I said during the trial, I make no imputation on the Official Assignee; but when the Court was pressed by the respondent's counsel on the ground of hardship, thought it proper to say that the Official Assignee should be more cautious in attaching property. Here the title to possession has been negatived; and although I cannot go behind the claim-case, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that I might have decided differently, and then the present plaintiff would have been the defendant, and the Official Assignee would have been plaintiff, and would have had to start

his case. There was no evidence, it was admitted by Mr. Kennedy, on the part of the Official Assignee at the hearing before the Lower Court; and it is also admitted that the Official Assignee has no evidence at the present moment. I cannot say this way of seizing property in possession of other persons is a very proper proceeding; and I agree with Mr. Graham that the Official Assignee must be treated as any other suitor.

The evidence of the plaintiff satisfies me that he has been in possession of these premises for 14 years. This is *primâ-facie* evidence of title, and the plaintiffs' evidence is supported by the evidence of several independent persons. The plaintiff's title is not counteracted by the presumption of joint Hindoo property, which does not arise in this case; and there is no evidence whatever put forward on the part of the defendant to set against the plaintiff's case. I cannot discredit the evidence adduced by the plaintiff *en masse*. There is nothing in that evidence which is marvellous or so entirely opposed to ordinary experience as to make it unworthy of belief. There are improbabilities of an ordinary character, and suspicions here and there; but I consider they are not sufficient to overthrow the case of the plaintiff. My own conviction that the plaintiff's case is substantially true receives considerable confirmation from the fact that not a scintilla of evidence has transpired to rebut the plaintiff's case; and I feel it would be unjust to hold a view which would have the effect of causing the permanent dispossession of the plaintiff from the property in dispute, when I have not before me the smallest shadow of evidence justifying the original seizure by the Official Assignee.

I am, therefore, of opinion that the judgment of the Court below should be reversed with costs. As, however, I am the junior Judge, my opinion is unavailing under the laws on the subject of the fate of the appeal.

Norman, C. J.—I am of opinion that the decision of Mr. Justice Phear ought to be affirmed with costs. I am free to confess that the argument of the counsel for the appellant has shown me that there is more doubt about the case than one would be at first disposed to think in reading the judgment of the learned Judge. I may say at once that, sitting here in appeal on a question of fact, before I can say that the judgment of Court below ought to be reversed, I mu satisfied very clearly that it is wrong. I come to the conclusion, after a great de consideration, that the judgment of learned Judge is not wrong, but right.

The facts of the case, so far as appear to me material, are these: The pl iff, Sreenarain Chuckerbutty, came Court as a claimant under Section 246 case of execution of a decree obtained Messrs. Thomas & Co., of whom Mr. M is the Assignee, against Mirtunjoy Ch butty, the plaintiff's brother. He failed show that the property attached was no the possession of Mirtunjoy, and the cl set up by him was disallowed by Mr. Ju Macpherson. He therefore brought suit to establish his right. I desire to a word as to the relative position of parties, and the onus of proof in a case the present. As far as regards Mr. Mi though he is Official Assignee, he is si in the position of any other execution ditor—a position in which, from the n of things, he cannot be expected to po any very precise knowledge of the ti persons interested, or supposed to be i ested, in the property which he causes t seized in execution as the property of judgment-debtor. That knowledge i knowledge which the owners of the p perty seized possess, and the history of title must come from them. The Court a right to expect, where a title is set depending on a transaction peculiarly w the knowledge of the claimant, that the should be fairly and honestly stated by He must stand or fall by the case he sets But I do not think that inferences ough be drawn against an execution-creditor, is under a mistake as to the true righ persons whose property is seized, the particulars of which he had generally

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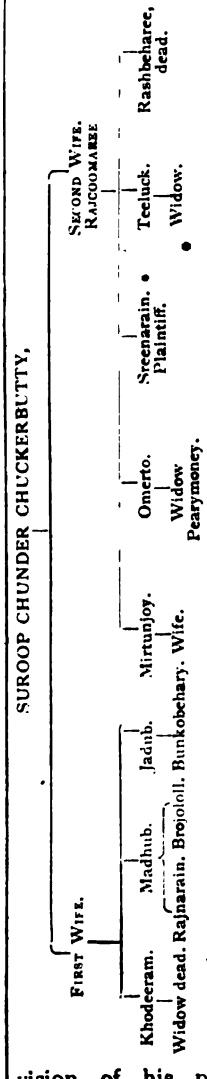
eans of ascertaining. In this case, cer-inly, the execution-creditors had the means knowing one particular fact, as to the sition of Sreenarain and Mirtunjoy, which s been deposed to by Sreenarain, and ich has not been challenged by any evi-nce on the part of the Official Assignee. is this, that, within a recent period, at all nts, Sreenarain had a distinct silk busi-s of his own, because it appears that he, well as Mirtunjoy, was in the habit of signing his silk to Thomas & Co.; and refore that Sreenarain and Mirtunjoy, ether they are members of a joint family not, at least each had separate property.

The plaintiff comes into Court, as regards claim to the house in dispute, upon a ecific allegation of title. He says that is entitled to the house as his sole and arate property, by virtue of a purchase de many years ago out of his own money the name of his two younger brothers, eeluck and Rashbeharee; and that he de the purchase in their name benamee, cause he had transactions with the Boses m whom the purchase was made. It pears that an original contract for the n of money took place in the summer of 34, and the conveyance to the two bro-ers, Teeluck and Rashbeharee, was in nuary 1835. There is said to have been partition; but it may be observed that, al-ough there is a statement made by the aintiff as to partition, to which I shall me presently, there is no statement in s case by him or his witnesses that there as a partition of the landed property. he plaintiff says there was a partition made y his elder brother, Khodeeram, and on hat, according to his account, the shares himself and his two brothers were made over to his mother, Rajcoomaree. He says his mother, Rajcoomaree, handed over to him between 3,000 or 4,000 Rs. The narrative commences in the year 1817 with the statement that the family, as exhibited in the sketch annexed, at the death of the father, Suroop, was a joint family; that the plaintiff was the son of Suroop; that he had seven brothers; three of them, *viz.*, Khodeeram Chuckerbutty, Madhub Chunder Chuckerbutty, and Jadub Chunder Chuckerbutty, were the sons of the first wife of Suroop; and five of them, *viz.*, Mirtunjoy, Omertololl, the plaintiff Sreenarain, Trilochun, and Rashbeharee, were the children of Rajcoomaree, the second wife of Suroop. Suroop is said to have died in 1816 or 1817, and to have given directions that his property should be divided amongst his children. It is drawing very largely on the credulity of the Court to ask it to believe that a Hindoo father would have made such an order for the partition of his property. If it had been said that the father ordered his property to be divided in two shares between the children of his two wives, that might have been possible; but I find it impossible to believe that a Hindoo father in the year 1816 should have given orders for a division of his property among his eight sons, several of whom were in their infancy, one of whom, in fact, appears to have been a posthumous son. However, the plaintiff says that the partition was made and carried out; that Mirtunjoy separated from his own three infant uterine brothers, who remained with their mother, Rajcoomaree. I may remark that the eldest of these infants, Sreenarain, was then three years old. Mirtunjoy, who was older, though his exact age does not appear, must have been very young himself, not improbably very much under sixteen years of age.



As I have said already, nothing appears to have been mentioned by plaintiff as to the partition of the real property; and when I carefully examine the evidence of the plaintiff, I find that, at the present time, the widows or representatives of the several sons are all to be found in the family-house at Moorshedabad, and that they all claimed their shares of the property which was seized as the property of Mirtunjoy. It also appears that the wife of Mirtunjoy is now living there with Pearymoney, the widow of Omertololl. It is said that Mirtunjoy's share has been sold to his nephew Bunkobehary.

I start then with the proposition that the family was originally joint, and that there was joint money and joint lands; and there is a statement made by the plaintiff, which Mr. Justice Phear utterly disbelieved, and which I also disbelieve, that a partition took place at the death of Suroop. I come to the purchase of the property now in dispute. That took place, according to the plaintiff, in 1834, at which time he was, at the outside, something like 18 or 20 years old. The plaintiff says he advanced Rs. 3,800 to the Boses. Now, where did he get the 3,800 to lend, and from whence did he get the remainder of the purchase-money? He is ready with his story. He says that he commenced trading a little time before when he was 15 years of age, and that he won a lakh of rupees at a Government lottery. Now, there is no doubt that there were lotteries of the East India Company formerly; and it may be that there were these lotteries in the year 1834, and that plaintiff won a lakh of rupees. But what would one expect to be the language of persons speaking of a member of a joint Hindoo family, who had only a small sum of 3,000 or 4,000 rupees, and who suddenly found himself with a lakh of rupees? Every witness, old enough to recollect the circumstance, would at once say, "Why this man's fortune had nothing to do with the joint funds? He started in life, it is true, with 3,000 rupees, which he got from his mother, but he won a lakh of rupees in a lottery." The story would have been trumpeted out at once. But, as Mr. Justice Phear observes, this story is a late invention; it was not mentioned in the earlier claim-suits. Mr. Justice Phear says it could have been corroborated by the books of the Bank of Bengal, which have not been produced; but, even if the Bank-books could not have been produced, at least some sort of independent evidence might have been adduced to support a story which draws so largely on our credulity. I do not believe that story. I think that, if had been true, it would have become no ous, and every witness connected with family who spoke of the plaintiff's sep property would have mentioned it at earliest opportunity.

Now, I have a word to say as to the chase itself. Does the purchase bear resemblance to a *bonâ-fide* purchase separated brother on his own account? children of Rajcoomaree are five. The sons concerned in the purchase are narain, in whose name the money was vanced (I may observe that it may suited the family to have the money ap in the name of Sreenarain), and Teeluck Rashbeharee, in whose names the purc was made. It is very singular that, if purchase by them or on their accoun fictitious, the names of those two per who, if the plaintiff's story is false, w have been jointly interested with the pl iff, should have been used to conceal fact that the plaintiff was the purch If it was done with a view to deceive Boses, the purchase might have been mad the name of Sreenarain's wife, or of his car or anybody else. It would hardly been made in the names of the two per who were presumably plaintiff's co-sha Then it is material to see with whose the transaction was concluded. By the of a very remarkable person, Shamsoo The plaintiff himself says that Mirtu was the kurta of his branch of the fa There is no doubt that Shamsoonder the gomashta of Mirtunjoy. He says was so from 1248 to 1268, meaning, no do to exclude the period of this transac The plaintiff says that, except for 5 years, Shamsoonder was exclusively his mashta; but this is contradicted by Sh soonder. Shamsoonder, who was in the vice of Suroop before his death, would doubt, continue to serve Mirtunjoy, the k after the death of Suroop. In the claim-suits the plaintiff put forward se umulnamahs in his own favor, signed Shamsoonder on behalf of Mirtunjoy. purchase-money was paid by the hand Shamsoonder. Therefore, we get Mirtu the kurta of the family consisting of children of Suroop and Rajcoomaree, eng in the purchase. The purchase was m and the money paid, through a man who really his agent. There is not, in my nion, any credible or reliable evidence w ever that the plaintiff had, at the time of purchase of this house, any separate

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rty of his own. If the story of the prize the lakh of rupees has any truth in it, it is impossible that it was gained for the family, and not for Sreenarain himself. is not shown that Sreenarain had any ds of his own, out of which he could e or did purchase the lottery-ticket. If purchase was for the joint family—if the d brothers were not benamee for him, trustees for themselves and members of family—I find nothing to show that the dition of the property has been since nged. It is true that Sreenarain purased a wall adjacent to this property, but there was a substantial reason why the perty should be held in the name of enarain, and not in the name of Mirtuny, that is worth very little. His name may e been used in 1860 in the same way the names of the two younger brothers re used in the matter of the original rchase.

Then there is the evidence of the payment rent, and that rent may have been received d remitted to the plaintiff. But that is not consistent, as Mr. Justice Phear has obrved, with the rent really belonging to Mirnjoy and to the joint family, more specialwhen we remember that in 1849 a decree a large sum, a lakh of rupees, was obtained Hickie, Baillie, and Co. against Mirtunjoy. f that decree for a lakh of rupees, the plaintiff s dared to say before Mr. Justice Phear he ew nothing till this suit—a decree for a kh of rupees against a brother who was probly living in the family dwelling-house till e became a fugitive—a brother whose wife is ing at the present moment in the joint famiy-house, and whose gomashta is also the omashta of plaintiff and of the family. It ppears to me that Mr. Justice Phear was ght in saying that he could not rely on the vidence of Sreenarain and Shamsoonder. Nobody has been brought from Moorshedabad show how money which was remitted to reenarain has been disposed of; and if it was ot carried to a joint-family account, how it as spent. It may be true that some transctions took place by which the plaintiff may have acquired Mirtunjoy's property. He may be one of 7 or 8 surviving representatives of the family. He may have some terest more or less in this property, but I ink that Mr. Justice Phear was quite warranted in saying that he disbelieved the evidence of those two men, Sreenarain and Shamsoonder, and that they are so utterly unreliable that he could not select bits of their evidence here and there which may be true. It appears to me that he could not have given any other decree than that which he has given—a decree which proceeds fairly on what is really the issue in the case, *viz.*, whether the plaintiff has the right which he alleges himself to possess. If the plaintiff has any other right, it cannot be decided in this suit. It can only be tried in a suit in which all the other representatives of Suroop are present. I should have been glad if that could have been settled in this suit, but as the plaintiff has put forward in this suit a specific title, and has failed in proving that title, I think that the decision of Mr. Justice Phear dismissing the suit should be affirmed with costs. I dismiss the suit in the belief that there is some joint interest in the family; that the money in 1834 was joint; and that being so, I think that the suit should be dismissed without prejudice to any suit which Sreenarain and his brothers or their representatives may bring to establish their right to their shares in this property as being joint-family property.

I may add that it appears to me that there is some evidence on the record to show that Mirtunjoy was at one time in possession of the house in dispute. The witness made this admission distinctly, although he seems to have retracted it afterwards. I have, however, not based my judgment on that, as there may possibly have been some misconception with regard to it. The witness says: "Mirtunjoy used to come to this house" (meaning the house in dispute); but as I have said, he afterwards seems to have retracted that statement.

[As there was a difference of opinion between the Judges of the Appellate Bench, the plaintiff appealed to the Court at large, under Section 15 of the Letters Patent of the Court, from the judgment of Norman, C.J. The appeal came on for argument on the 20th and 21st March last before a Bench consisting of Loch, L. S. Jackson, and Mitter, JJ. The Court took time to consider its judgment, which was delivered on the 24th *idem* by L. S. Jackson, J., the result being that the appeal from the judgment of the Chief Justice was dismissed with costs.]

The 3rd February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. C. Paul, *Judge*.

Insolvent Court — Evidence — Appeal — Jurisdiction.

On Appeal from an order of the Hon'ble J. B. Phear sitting as Commissioner in the Insolvent Court.

In the Matter of
Ajoodhya Pershad and another, *Insolvents.*

Mohunt Joyram Geer, *Appellant,*

versus

A. B. Miller, Official Assignee, *Respondent.*

Mr. Graham and *Mr. Evans* for the Appellant.

Mr. Kennedy and *Mr. Leighton* for the Respondent.

In a case in which the parties omitted to have the evidence recorded as required by Section 72 of the Insolvent Act, it was held that a party appealing against the order based on the evidence is not in a position to be heard before the Appellate Court.

Per Norman, C. J. (Paul, J., dubitante).—The Insolvent Court has a discretionary power under Section 26 of the Insolvent Act, when it finds that property belonging to or a debt due to the insolvent is in the possession of another party, to make an order on such person to make over such property or debt, or any part thereof, to the Official Assignee.

THE insolvents in this case inserted the appellants in their schedule among their debtors to the extent of Rs. 11,000 in respect of certain transactions connected with the purchase from the appellants of 1,000 bales of cotton, of which the insolvents did not take delivery, but which the appellants were desired to retain in their own hands and sell on commission on behalf of the insolvents. The appellants on such sale were to deduct the purchase-money and commission, and to account to the insolvents for the profits. The Official Assignee put in a petition bringing this fact to the notice of the Commissioner, and stating that the cotton was sold by W. Haworth & Co., and he applied for an order directing the insolvents and the now appellants, together with certain other parties, to attend before the Court with their books a accounts for the purpose of being examined respect of the claim which the insolvents a peared to have against the appellants. A order to the effect was accordingly made, a the matter having been heard and Kissen Chobay, one of the gomashtas of Mohu Joyram Geer having been examined, the Co ordered Mohunt Joyram Geer to hold a retain the 1,000 bales of cotton, or the proce thereof, belonging to the estate and effect the insolvents, until the further orders of t Court; and he was further ordered to sh cause why he should not deliver over the s 1,000 bales of cotton or the proceeds then to the Official Assignee.

Pursuant to the order so made, the Mohu showed cause, and evidence was taken by t Court, but the parties not having requested officer of the Court to take down the depositi of the witnesses, pursuant to Section 72 of Insolvent Act, the evidence was not record

The judgment of the High Court w delivered as follows:—

Phear, J.—THE rule will be made abs lute. The evidence appears to me to entirely one-sided. All the evidence that ca be relied on shows that there really was *bonâ-fide* sale of the cotton to the insolven I have not the slightest doubt that this was The two witnesses who endeavour to ma out that the sale was benamee were qu unworthy of credit—they showed as ma by their demeanour in Court. I think th Mr. Ingram's argument drawn from the a counts themselves was very forcible, for is quite manifest that there were continuo dealings between the insolvents and the M hunt's firm after the first sale of the cotto which it is now argued had the effect of d stroying their credit. I observe from the sch dule that there is a debt due by the inso vents to the Mohunt. The Mohunt w therefore be ordered to make over to th Official Assignee the proceeds of the cotto less the amount due to him as entered the schedule. The Mohunt will pay th Official Assignee's cost from the time of th first rule; the insolvents' costs will be pa out of the estate. I am inclined to think th the Mohunt should pay the costs of the i solvents, but I will reserve that point.

Mohunt Joyram Geer appealed against th above judgment, and the order which w issued in accordance therewith, on the follo ing grounds:—

1st.—That the said Commissioner was in ror in holding that the purchase of the id 1,000 bales of cotton in the said order entioned was made by the appellant on beif of the said insolvents; whereas the said rned Commissioner ought to have held on the evidence that the said purchase was ade by the said appellant on his own count and for his own benefit, and not on count of, or for the benefit of, the said invents, and that neither the insolvents nor e said Official Assignee had any interest erein.

2nd.—That the said learned Commissioner s in error in ordering that the said appelnt should hand over to the Official Assignee e surplus sale-proceeds of the said 1,000 les of cotton, deducting only the sum of upees 2,216-10-6 admitted in the schedule the said insolvents to be due to the apllant, and the price or sum at which the id 1,000 bales had been ostensibly purased for the insolvents; whereas the said rned Commissioner should have held, even the said purchase was for the benefit of the solvents, that the appellant was entitled to duct in addition to the above sums his comission on the purchase and sale thereof.

3rd.—That the said learned Commissioner s wrong in ordering that the appellant ould pay the costs of the said Official signee from the time of the first rule taken t against the appellant; whereas the said rned Commissioner ought to have directed t the appellant should have had all his sts of the said proceedings out of the estate the said insolvents.

he following are the judgments of the Appellate Court:—

Norman, C.J.—In this case Mr. Justice hear made an order, under the 26th Section the Indian Insolvent Act, that Mohunt yram Geer do hand over to the Official Asgnee the sum of Rupees 9,087-5-6 pie, being e balance due from Mohunt Joyram Geer to e insolvents. In the schedule filed by the solvents, Mohunts Poroosram Geer and Joym Geer of Burra Bazar in Calcutta are enred as debtors for 11,000, and the partilars of that debt are as follow: "We ought 1,000 bales of cotton at a re-sale aucon at Seebpore through Bunwarryloll from ese debtors: 500 bales at 15-12 per maund, d 500 bales at 16-8. We did not pay for but instructed Mohunt Joyram Geer and oroosram Geer to sell it for us on commission, deduct the purchase-money and their comission, and to account to us for the profits." It appears that, after the insolvency, and before the insolvent obtained his discharge, the learned Judge, under the 26th Section, ordered that "Mohunt Joyram Geer should hold and retain the 1,000 bales of cotton or the proceeds thereof, belonging to, or forming part of, the estate and effects of the said insolvents, until this Court shall make further order concerning the same;" and that Mohunt Joyram Geer should show cause why he should not deliver over the said 1,000 bales of cotton or the proceeds thereof to the Official Assignee. Cause was shown on behalf of Mohunt Joyram Geer. The insolvent was examined on behalf of the Official Assignee. An affidavit of Gobind Chunder Nauth was read, and three witnesses, *viz.*, Mothoora Doss, Futteh Churn, and Mr. Carapiet, were examined on behalf of the Mohunt. The evidence was not, however, taken down in writing, as provided for by the 73rd Section of the Insolvent Act, and we have nothing before us but the judgment of Mr. Justice Phear and the order which was made upon it. The judgment is in these terms:—

"The rule will be made absolute. The "evidence appears to me to be entirely one-"sided. All the evidence that can be relied "on shows that there really was a *bonâ-fide* "sale of the cotton to the insolvent. I have "not the slightest doubt that this was so. "The two witnesses who endeavour to make "out that the sale was benamee were quite "unworthy of credit—they showed as much "by their demeanour in Court. I think that "Mr. Ingram's argument drawn from the "accounts themselves was very forcible, for "it is quite manifest that there were con-"tinuous dealings between the insolvents and "the Mohunt's firm after the first sale of "the cotton, which, it is now argued, had the "effect of destroying their credit. I observe "from the schedule that there is a debt due "by the insolvents to the Mohunt. The "Mohunt will, therefore, be ordered to make "over to the Official Assignee the pro-"ceeds of the cotton, less the amount due "to him as entered in the schedule. The "Mohunt will pay the Official Assignee's "costs from the time of the first rule. The "insolvents' costs will be paid out of the "estate. I am inclined to think that the "Mohunt should pay the costs of the insol-"vents, but I will reserve that point."

Mr. Justice Phear accordingly ordered, as I have already said, that the Mohunt should pay over as the balance Rs. 9,087-5-6 pie.

From that decision there has been an appeal to this Court, and several points of

considerable importance have been put forward by Mr. Graham and Mr. Evans on behalf of Mohunt Joyram Geer.

The first point to which I shall advert is this. Mr. Graham and Mr. Evans objected that the learned Judge had no power under the 26th Section to adjudicate, and make the order that he did, and they have also taken various objections founded on the evidence to show that the decision is erroneous.

With regard to the objections on the merits, the attempt to show that the decision is wrong on the facts of the case, it appears to me that the appellants have not placed themselves in a condition to be heard. The 72nd Section provides that "any person who shall be interested in any proceeding of any of the said Courts for the relief of insolvent-debtors, upon depositing with the proper officer of the Court a sum of money, of which the amount shall be fixed by the Court, may require that the whole of the evidence relating to any such proceeding may be taken down in writing by a sworn officer of the Court, and the same shall be done accordingly; and in case no appeal is presented within one calendar month, the Court is empowered to pay the reasonable costs and expenses thereof out of the money which shall have been so deposited as aforesaid, returning the surplus, if any, to the person who shall have deposited the same."

The 73rd Section, which gives the appeal, provides that "it shall be lawful for any person who shall think himself aggrieved by any adjudication, order, or proceeding to present within one calendar month thereafter a petition to the Supreme Court of Judicature of the Presidency; and it shall be lawful for such Court to order that the whole of the evidence, if any, which shall have been so taken down in writing as aforesaid, and the minutes and records of the proceedings of which complaint shall have been made shall be brought before it, and the said last-mentioned Court shall inquire into the matter of the petition, and of such proceedings and evidence, and shall make such order thereon as to the same Court shall seem meet and just." Now, in the present case, the evidence not having been taken down and recorded as provided by the 72nd Section, we have no means whatever, on the materials before us, of knowing the facts on which the judgment proceeded. We must therefore take it that the evidence was such as fully to warrant the decision of the Court.

The only question then remaining is, whether the Insolvent Court had jurisdiction to entertain the question and to make the order that the Mohunt should pay to the Official Assignee the sum he was found to be indebted to the insolvent.

The 26th Section provides that, in case any person shall, after any such insolvent shall have petitioned for his discharge under the Act, or have been adjudged to have committed an act of insolvency, and before the said insolvent shall have obtained his discharge of the nature of a certificate as hereinafter-mentioned, be possessed of, or have under his power or control, any property whatsoever of such insolvent, with the exception of certain property then therein mentioned, or to which such insolvent may be in any way entitled, either under any trust expressed or implied, or otherwise held for his use or benefit, *or in case any such person shall be at any such period indebted to such insolvent*, it shall be lawful for the said Court, upon the application of any Assignee or any creditor of such insolvent, whose debt or demand shall have been admitted or established in the matter of the said Insolvency, to cause notice to be given to such person, directing him to hold and retain the said property till the said Court shall make further order concerning the same; and thereupon for such Court further to order such person to deliver over such property, and to pay such debt as aforesaid, to the Assignee or Assignees of the estate and effects of such insolvents for the general benefit of the creditors of such insolvent.

Now, I think no one can read that Section without seeing that there are many cases in which the Court is empowered to make an order that debts due to an insolvent shall be paid to the Assignee. It has been pointed out by the Chief Justice in the case of Dwarkanath Mitter,* 4 Bengal Law Reports, Original Jurisdiction, page 63, that it is discretionary

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*The 13th August 1869.

Present:

The Hon'ble Sir Barnes Peacock, *Kt.*, *Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble J. B. Phear, *Judge*.

On Appeal from the judgment of the Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson, sitting as Commissioner in the Insolvent Court.

In the Matter of Dwarkanath Mitter, an Insolvent.

Ratnamonee Dossee and another, *Appellants*,

versus

A. B. Miller, Official Assignee, *Respondent*.

Mr. Marindin and *Mr. Cowell* for the Appellants.

Mr. Graham and *Mr. Branson* for the Respondent.

The judgment of Macpherson, J., as regards the point of jurisdiction, was as follows:—

THIS is an insolvent matter, and the parties now before me appear in obedience to an order directing them

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with the Court to enter upon the trial of such question, and to make the order. I think that is a correct view of the law. In the first place, the language of the provision is that "it shall be lawful for the Court" to cause notice to be given, &c.; and again "it shall be lawful for the Court to order such person to pay such debts or any part thereof." It seems to follow that the Court has a discretionary power. Even where it is shown that there is a debt, the Court is *not bound* to order the whole to be paid. The Section empowers the Judge, who finds that a debt is due to the insolvent, to make an order that the whole of the debt or part thereof shall be paid; that is to say, that when the circumstances of the case render it

to attend and be examined, and to produce the title-deeds and documents relating to certain real properties which are mentioned in the order, together with all account-books and certain Government paper standing in the names of some of them. The order also calls upon them to show cause why they should not deliver up to the Official Assignee the properties and Government paper mentioned in the order, and now in their possession or control. The question which I have to decide is whether it has been proved that any of the properties, or Government paper, the subjects of this inquiry, though now in the possession or control of these persons, are really the property of the insolvent Dwarkanath Mitter, so as to justify me in ordering them under Section 26 of the Insolvent Act to be delivered up to the Official Assignee.

Section 26 of the Insolvent Act is of a summary character, and is intended to apply to cases in which the insolvent is entitled, beyond all reasonable doubt, to property which has not been made over by him to the Assignee. It probably was never intended that serious questions of title should be decided in a proceeding under this Section, and it must be expressly understood that I do not consider myself to be now deciding finally any question of title one way or the other. All I have power to do when acting under this Section is to decide whether the property now claimed by the Assignee is the property (although not apparently in the possession) of the insolvent for the purposes and within the meaning of Section 26. I think the rule has been properly drawn up as relating to property now in the possession of these persons, for there can be no proceeding under Section 26 save as regards such property as is in the possession or control of the parties proceeded against at the date of the rule.

This matter commenced with the examination of the insolvent under Section 36, when he made such statements with regard to property in the possession of his wife, his son, and his son's wife, that I thought there were sufficient grounds on which to issue the rule against which these parties have now shown cause. I confess that the proceeding has spread itself out considerably further than I contemplated when I issued the rule; for practically it has ended in my doing something very nearly tantamount to trying several actions of ejectment. I certainly have gone as far as I could well go under these Sections. It is to be regretted that so many different matters should have been mixed up together, and gone into in the way in which they have been. Perhaps I might have done better if I had refused to proceed beyond the examination of these persons under Section 36, and had then left the Official Assignee to proceed in a more formal manner in the assertion of his claim. I have, however, gone fully into the whole matter, and, of course, must decide upon it. But I shall not make any order under Section 26 except in instances in which I consider that there is no reasonable doubt whatever that the property is the actual property of the insolvent. It would be improper to make any such order in any instance in which there is a substantial question as to title involved.

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The following are the judgments of the Appellate Court in this case:—

Peacock, C.J.—It appears to me that there is no ground for interfering with this order. Putting out of consideration altogether the deposition of Anund Chunder Mitter, there is ample evidence in the testimony given by Ruttun Money Dossee and Buddinauth Mitter to show that the properties in dispute were held benamee for the insolvent. The only question on which I had any doubt was the one which I suggested to Mr. Marindin at the close of his argument, as to whether Section 26 of the 11th Vic., p. 21, authorized the Insolvent Court to make an order for the delivery of property, or for the payment of a debt, alleged to be the property of the insolvent, or to be due to him, when the title or debt was a matter in dispute. But, looking to the words of the Section, it appears to me that they are too strong to have any other interpretation put upon them than that the Insolvent Court has the power to order any person, who has the possession of, or has under his power or control, any property of the insolvent, to deliver over such property to the Assignee. The words "it shall be lawful for the said Court" do not appear to me to render it compulsory on the Court in all cases to try whether the disputed property belonged to the insolvent or not, but it is discretionary with the Court to enter upon the trial of such a question, and to make an order. There are many cases of fraudulent transfers of moveable property on the eve of insolvency or after it, in which, unless the Insolvent Court had the power, the property might be made away with before an action could be brought and determined; and, if the Court has the power, it appears to me that the present is one of those cases in which, in the exercise of its power, it ought to make an order.

[The Chief Justice then went into the facts of the case, and affirmed the order of the Insolvent Court with costs.]

Phear, J.—I agree with the Chief Justice that the 26th Section of the Act gives power to the Insolvent Court in a certain case, upon the application of the Assignee or any creditor after notice, to order a person who should be possessed of property belonging to, or be indebted to, the insolvent,

necessary or proper that the Court should make an order for payment, the Court has power to make such order. As I have said, we have no evidence before us to show the circumstances which induced Mr. Justice Phear to make the order for the payment of the money. In this case the Mohunt sought to escape liability by alleging that the papers and documents relating to the transaction were in fictitious names. These papers show on the face of them, as I understand it, that the money is payable to the insolvent. The learned Judge may have exercised his discretion properly, or it may be that he ought to have left the parties to litigate the matter in a regular suit; but we are not in a condition to say anything as to the propriety of the order, and I express no opinion on that point. All I do say is that the order of Mr. Justice Phear is, or may be, so far as the materials before us go, a legal or proper order, and therefore we cannot interfere.

For these reasons, I think that the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Paul, J.—In this case I am also of opinion that the appeal should be dismissed. The only point which has struck me during the argument is, whether the Insolvent Court had jurisdiction to try the question. On that point the case of Dwarkanath Mitter is an authority that the Court can entertain such a case. This point has not been taken in the grounds of appeal, and I do not think that the justice of the case requires that we should entertain it. When a proper case is put before the Court, it will be time enough to consider the ruling in Dwarkanath Mitter's case. In the present case no injustice has been done, and I therefore concur in dismissing the appeal, though I entertain doubts as to the soundness of the opinion expressed in Dwarkanath Mitter's case.

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to deliver over such property, or pay such debt, to the Assignee. Now, the case is thus described: "If any person shall, after any such insolvent shall have petitioned for his discharge, be possessed of, or have under his power or control; any property whatever of such insolvent, or to which such insolvent may be in any way entitled," &c. Certainly, before making an order, the Court must satisfy itself that such a case has occurred, and it can only do so by a process of judicial enquiry and upon the hearing of evidence. In other words, the Insolvent Court must be competent for the purposes of Section 26 to take evidence, and thereon to adjudicate whether or not a specified person is possessed of, or has under his power or control, any property of the insolvent, or is in any amount indebted to the insolvent. It is, no doubt, observable that there is not a corresponding enactment in any of the English Acts, but it seems to me that there is good reason why it should be specially introduced into an Act intended to be worked in this country. The prevalence of benamee transactions and of the enjoyment of property jointly in various shares by members of large families renders it necessary that the Insolvent Court should have extraordinary powers for the purpose of enabling the Official Assignee on behalf of the creditors to secure the property of the insolvent, and to protect it from fraudulent transfers effected for the purpose of saving the property from distribution among his creditors.

I also think with the Chief Justice that the words "it shall be lawful for the said Court" do not render it compulsory on the Court to act in all cases in which an application should be made to it by the Official Assignee or by any creditors. It appears to me, further, not difficult to say where the line should be drawn separating cases in which the Insolvent Court should take action from those in which the Official Assignee should be referred to the Civil Court. The procedure of the Insolvent Court, and the mode prescribed for an application under Section 26, are not very appropriate to an enquiry which mainly has regard to conflicting rights of property; but I see no reason at all why a determination completely satisfactory should not be come to in proceedings of this kind when the matter of enquiry is simply a matter of fact, such as those which I have just now referred to, an enquiry whether the property is held benamee or not, or whether it is a portion of joint-family property; and again there are a large class of simple debts which may be very safely enquired into, and all the facts ascertained by merely bringing the parties face to face with each other through the machinery of a simple notice or order *nisi*, such as that prescribed by this Section.

Moreover, I would add that it seems to me not too late to question the power of the Insolvent Court to make an order of this sort under the 26th Section of the Act, considering that at this time the Act has been in operation for upwards of 20 years, and that it has been the constant practice of the Insolvent Court to make such orders during that period. At the same time, I believe it has always been the practice of the Court, and I am sure it has been the practice during the period of my experience here, to abstain from making orders to deliver over goods or to pay debts, when it appears that there is really a conflict of right or equity between the insolvent and the person in whose possession the goods are, or from whom payment of the debt is sought to be obtained.

As to the facts of this case, I also agree with the Chief Justice that, even if the evidence of Anundo Chunder is set on one side, there is amply sufficient in the testimony of the other witnesses to support the finding to which the learned Commissioner has arrived.

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Modifies the Pleadership Rules as regards natives of Assam.

The 17th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, and L. S. Jackson, *Judges*.

It is hereby notified that, in the examination for Senior Pleadership to be held in Assam in 1872, the qualifications mentioned in Clauses 1 and 2, Rule 9 of the High Court's Rules of 2nd May 1866,* for the qualification, admission, and enrolment of pleaders, will not be required in the case of natives of that Province. Any such person, however, passing the examination without those qualifications, will be restricted in his practice to the Courts of that Province alone.

By order, &c.,

(Sd.) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

* 5 W. R., Rules, p. 9.

Rules for the admission and enrolment of Mooktears on the Appellate Side of the High Court.

I. Persons who have hitherto practised as Mooktears on the appellate side of the High Court, and also persons desiring so to practise, may apply to be admitted and enrolled as Mooktears in the High Court.

II. No person so applying shall be admitted except he shall satisfy the Court as to his character and competency.

III. Every person so applying, on being approved by the Court, shall, before he is admitted and enrolled as a Mooktear, be required to give security in the sum of Rs. 2,000 for his honesty and good conduct, for his compliance with the rules and orders of the High Court, and for the faithful discharge of his duties towards the Court and towards his employers.

IV. Every person admitted and enrolled as a Mooktear of the High Court shall be at liberty—

(1.)—To instruct Counsel or Vakeel.

(2.)—To inspect the records of any civil or criminal case in which he is en-

gaged as Mooktear, and, if necessary, to obtain copies of any papers or documents in order to the preparation of a brief or instructions for the Counsel or Vakeel employed or to be employed in the case.

(3.)—To deposit in the office money or securities on behalf of his clients.

(4.)—To withdraw monies or securities deposited on account of his clients.

(5.)—To receive back original or other documents filed in any case after the case shall have been completely disposed of.

(6.)—And, generally, to do all other such duties on behalf of his clients as Mooktears are now, according to the existing practice in the Court, empowered to do.

Provided that no moneys, securities, or documents, shall be handed out to any Mooktear, except on production of a special or general Power of Attorney, under the hand of his client, and duly registered, authorizing him to receive the same.

Mooktears within the first fortnight in January in every year, or on the occasion of taking out or renewing their certificates, shall be required to satisfy the Registrar as to the state of their securities.

(Sd.) J. P. NORMAN.
" G. LOCH.
" H. V. BAYLEY.
" F. B. KEMP.
" L. S. JACKSON.
" J. B. PHEAR.
" E. JACKSON.
" F. A. GLOVER.
" D. N. MITTER.
" W. AINSLIE.
" G. C. PAUL.
" O. C. MOOKERJEE.

The 19th January 1871.

VAKEELS.

1.—THE rule of the 26th of November 1862, as to the attendance of Vakeels and striking out a case for non-attendance, is hereby repealed.

2.—Every Vakeel engaged in any case shall be entitled to obtain from the Court office copies of the whole or any part of the proceedings and evidence in the case on depositing the estimated cost of such copies.

d

3.—Every such copy shall be examined d certified as correct before it is issued m the office of the Court.

4.—The charge for such copies shall be e Rupee per 1,440 English words, and one pee for 2,000 words in Bengali or Urdoo.

5.—When a Vakeel retained to appear d plead for any party to a suit or appeal prevented by sickness or engagement in other Court from appearing and conduct- g the case of his client, he may appoint other Vakeel to appear in his place, so at his client may not be unrepresented at e hearing; and the Court, if it see no rea- n to the contrary, may allow the argument proceed in the absence of the Vakeel or akeels originally engaged.

6.—In any case in which the party em- loying a Vakeel or his Agent after due otice fails to pay the amount of the esti- ated costs for preparing briefs containing e papers connected with the case on ap- eal necessary to enable the Vakeel to con- uct the case properly, the Vakeel or akeels, after notice to such party or his gent, and by leave of the Court, may with- draw from the case.

7.—A Vakeel may also, for any other sufficient cause, or after such notice to his client as may enable him to appoint another Vakeel, by leave of the Court, but not otherwise, and on such terms as the Court shall order as to refunding any fees he may have received, withdraw from the further conduct of the case.

8.—A list of all appeals filed shall be made out weekly, and a copy thereof hung up in the Library.

In such list the number of the appeal, the names of the parties and of the Vakeel who filed the appeal, shall be given.

(Sd.) J. P. NORMAN.
" G. LOCH.
" H. V. BAYLEY.
" F. B. KEMP.
" L. S. JACKSON.
" J. B. PHEAR.
" E. JACKSON.
" E. A. GLOVER.
" D. N. MITTER.
" W. AINSLIE.
" G. C. PAUL.
" O. C. MOOKERJEE.

The 19th January 1871.

Rules for disposal of rent-suits.

The 4th February 1871.

Rules for the prompt trial of undefended and other suits for arrears of rent in Civil Courts under Act VIII. of 1869.

1.—EVERY summons in any suit for arrears of rent, not being a suit in which enhancement is sought, brought under the provisions of Act VIII. of 1869, B. C., shall command the defendant to appear at the expiration of fourteen clear days after the service thereof.

2.—Every such suit entered in the Register, as directed by Section 42, shall be marked thus—"Rent Suit," "Baki Kházánár Mokuddama," "Baki Malguzari."

3.—Immediately on the return of the summons in any such "rent-suit," the suit shall be entered in a list of causes in from annexd, to be stuck up in the Court-house,specifying the day for hearing, which shall be on the day fixed for the appearance of the defendant, or on the earliest day on which the Court shall sit after such day.

4.—Each such suit shall be called on in its turn at the sitting of the Court and before suits of any other description upon the day for the hearing thereof; and in every case in which it shall be shown that the defendant has been duly served with the summons in proper time to enable him to appear and defend the suit, but the defendant does not, either in person or by any authorized Agent or Pleader, appear or make answer to the suit, the case shall be forthwith taken up and heard *ex parte*, unless in any particular case the Court, for special reasons to be recorded in the proceedings, shall think fit to order otherwise.

5.—Provided nevertheless that no suit f arrears of rent shall be called on and tri *ex parte* when the summons shall not h been served at least fourteen clear days b fore the day of hearing.

6.—When it shall appear that the su mons has not been duly served, or that fo teen clear days have not elapsed from t date of the due service of the summons, case shall stand over until a day to be fi immediately after the expiration of fo teen clear days from the date of the d service of the summons.

7.—In cases where the defendant appe and makes answer, or desires to contest claim, the case may either be taken up a tried at once, if it appear to be likely to a short one, or may be placed in the ordin list of defended causes, and come on in turn, if such latter course appear to t Judge to be expedient with reference to t state of his file or the convenience of t parties.

(Sd.) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

List of Rent-suits in the Court of the of

Number of case on the Register.	Names of parties.	Claim.	Date fi for tri

f

The 7th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Attached property—Land disputes—Section 319, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Criminal Revisional Jurisdiction.

Hurronath Chowdhry, *Petitioner,*

versus

Rajender Chunder Roy and others, *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Rajendro Nath Misser for Petitioner.

Baboos Tarruck Nath Paulit and *Khetter Nath Bose* for Opposite Party.

A Sessions Judge has no power to interfere with an order of a Magistrate attaching disputed land under Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Jackson, J.—THE order of the Judge in this case, interfering with the decision of the Deputy Magistrate attaching the disputed land under Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, is against law. There is no power of revision in the Judge to interfere with such orders, of the Deputy Magistrate. His order, virtually setting aside that decision, and ordering further enquiry, being illegal, must be set aside, and the original order of the Deputy Magistrate, dated the 4th May 1870, must be enforced, the disputed land remaining under attachment as it was there ordered.

The 14th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Attachment—Land disputes—Section 318, Code of Criminal Procedure.

In the matter of

J. W. Maseyk, *Petitioner.*

Mr. J. W. B. Money and *Baboo Kali Kishen Sein* for Petitioner.

The power of attaching land regarding which there is a dispute conferred on a Magistrate by Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure extends to disputes as to possession of land of which rival zemindars are in possession by their ryots.

Norman, C. J.—THIS is an application to the Court under Section 404 to send for the papers in a case under Sections 318 and 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The facts are as follow: A dispute appears to have arisen between the ryots of Mr. Maseyk and those of Baboo Anund Chand Lohatta as to a considerable tract of land, about 3,007 beegahs, which the Magistrate of Maldah found, on inquiry, was likely to produce a breach of the peace. Mr. Maseyk claimed this land as belonging to his talooks Shabazpore and Delallpore; Baboo Anund Chand Lohatta alleged that it was part of his putnee estate, and he calls it by the name of Koyla Dearah.

Baboo Sitakanth Mookerjee, the Deputy Magistrate, made an enquiry, and visited the spot; and he recorded that he was unable to satisfy himself as to which of the two parties was in possession of the land, portions of the land having been sown with indigo by the ryots of one zemindar, and with *kullye* by the ryots of the other. Under these circumstances, he attached the land in dispute until a competent Civil Court should have determined the rights of the parties.

Mr. Money's objection to the order of the Deputy Magistrate is substantially this—that the disputing parties are zemindars in possession by their ryots; and he contends that Section 318 is not meant to provide for disputes as to possession of land of which the zemindars are only in possession by their ryots.

We think that there is no ground for this contention, and he is not borne out by the case to which he has referred in the 5th Volume of the Weekly Reporter. The decision of the Deputy Magistrate, whether or not it is right on the facts, is perfectly correct in law.

Mr. Money complains that his client will be liable to much injury in consequence of the loss which he will sustain by the lands remaining under attachment under the care of some officer appointed by the Magistrate.

It appears to us that this is no ground for our interference. His client has no substantial cause for complaint, because, if he is entitled to the land in dispute, and was in possession of it, he will have no difficulty in bringing a civil suit, praying that he may be maintained in possession or to recover possession, and for a declaration of his title; and in that civil suit an order might be made, pending the litigation, under which, if the Judge thinks fit, Mr. Money's client may be appointed Manager or Receiver on giving proper security of either the whole or of such portions of the land as shall appear to have been sown by his ryots.

We see no ground to interfere with the order passed by the Deputy Magistrate, and we, therefore, decline to send for the record.

The 17th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Sanction of Government—Lottery-office—Section 10, Act XXVII. of 1870.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Recorder of Moulmein in the case of the Government versus Nga Cho.

The sanction of the Local Government is necessary before a charge for keeping a lottery office under Section 10, Act XXVII. of 1870, can be instituted.

Loch, J.—THIS case appears to have been taken up and disposed of by the Magistrate without the authority of the Local Government having been obtained to the institution of the proceedings. Now, though it be an offence under Section 10, Act XXVII. of 1870, 294A, to keep a lottery-office not authorized by Government, &c., yet Section 14 of the Act provides that no charge under 294A shall be entertained by any Court unless the prosecution be instituted by order of, or under the authority from, the Local Government. The proceedings in this case must consequently be set aside.

Norman, C. J.—I concur.

The 18th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges*.

Jurisdiction—Procedure—Chapter X, Penal Code.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Sessions Judge of Bhaugulpore in the case of Chutoorbhooj Bharthee versus Mr. Macnaghten.

The Queen *versus* Chunder Seekur Roy—ruling that a Court before which an offence is committed under Chapter X. of the Penal Code cannot try the case itself—followed, notwithstanding the argument of the Sessions Judge in this case that that ruling should apply only to certain cases under Chapter X.

Reference.—THE applicant's pleader contends that under the High Court Ruling, Queen *versus* Chunder Seekur Roy, dated the 23rd April 1870, Vol. 13, W. R., p. 66, the Deputy Magistrate could not himself try the case.

The conviction is, therefore, illegal, and the sentence should be quashed.

It will be observed that this ruling affects all cases under Chapter X. of the Penal Code and virtually lays down that in a Sub-division or any station where only one Magisterial Officer is located an offence under Chapter X. against the public servant in charge of the local Court would have to be prosecuted in some other station. With due deference to the Court's opinion, I would respectfully observe that it appears to

e that, as the Legislature have specially allowed the Court in which an offence under ctions 175, 176, 178, 179, and 180, are mmitted to dispose of the case itself, ere can be no legal objection, in *default of rect legal interdiction*, to the Court trying her offences under Chapter X., Penal Code, mmitted against itself.

The interest is not a personal interest, hich would render the trial a scandal; it only in cases referred to in Section 163 at the Legislature deemed the interest of ch a personal character as to demand special legislation.

The High Court Circular No. 20, dated th October 1864, points out the distinction f public servants in their public and private apacities.

The papers of the case under reference re submitted for the orders of the High Court under Section 434, Code of Criminal Procedure, in consequence of the ruling bove adverted to.

Judgment of the High Court.

Bayley, J.—I think the ruling in the case of Queen *versus* Chundra Seekur Roy, dated 3rd April 1870, Weekly Reporter, Vol. 13, . 66, should be followed. It is difficult to raw the distinction the Judge draws.

Mitter, J.—I concur.

The 18th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Procedure—Finding—Assessors.

The Queen *versus* Bhugwan Lall and four others, *Appellants.*

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Bhaugulpore, on a charge of intentionally giving false evidence.

No legal conviction can take place unless the opinion of the Assessors is taken on the whole of the evidence in a case.

Bayley, J.—In these 5 cases, the opinion of the Assessors was taken upon the evidence of the second witness subsequently examined. The Judge gives as the reason that the second witness deposed exactly as the first. But, even if he did, no legal conviction could take place without the opinion of the Assessors being recorded on the whole evidence.

We quash the proceedings of the Judge as illegal, and desire the trial be held *de novo.*

The 21st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

High Court—Irregularity—Charge—Chapter XIV. and Section 426, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Ramdoyal Singh, *Petitioner.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for Petitioner.

In a case under Chapter XIV. of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in which the accused had full opportunity given him to answer the case which was made against him, the High Court felt itself precluded by Section 426 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from interfering with the judgment of the Lower Court, even if it found that there was an irregularity in the proceedings in consequence of the absence of a formal charge.

Norman, C.J.—I THINK that we ought not to send for the proceedings in this case. It was a charge under Section 353 of the Indian Penal Code for using criminal force towards a mohurrir, who was engaged in the execution of his duty as a servant of the Joint Magistrate of Patna, and in resisting and encouraging others to resist his apprehension when his arrest was ordered by the Joint Magistrate, which was triable under the provisions of the 14th Chapter of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Mr. Twidale suggests that no charge in writing was prepared in the manner prescribed by Section 250 of that Code. The petitioner does not produce any authenticated copy of the proceedings to show that the suggestion is well founded, nor does he, by a verified petition, make a statement to that effect. There was an appeal from the order of the Joint Magistrate to the Judge. The petition of appeal to the Judge is not brought before us, and in the Judge's decision confirming the conviction by the Joint Magistrate, no allusion was made to the want of formal charge.

We think, therefore, that we cannot assume that no charge was, in fact, drawn up as required by Section 250, more particularly as a charge is alluded to in the judgment of the Joint Magistrate. Even if there had been no charge—although that would have been a serious irregularity—we are far from saying that we should feel ourselves bound to reverse the decision of the Joint Magistrate; because it is clear that the defendant had a full opportunity of answering the case which was made against him, and an opportunity was also afforded him of calling his witnesses, of which he refused to avail himself. There is no doubt about the facts, and the sentence passed upon the defendant seems to be a proper one. Therefore, acting under the provisions of Section 426, we should probably have felt ourselves precluded from interfering with the judgment of the Joint Magistrate, even if we had found there was an irregularity in the proceedings on the trial in consequence of the absence of a formal charge.

The application is refused.

The 21st January 1870.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Warrant—Abduction.

Bidhoomookhee Dabee and two others, *Petitioners,*

versus

Sreenath Haldar, *Opposite Party.*

Messrs. M. M. Ghose and *M. L. Sandel* for Petitioners.

No one for Opposite Party.

A warrant for the arrest of a person on a charge of abduction should state the intent with which the offence was committed.

Jackson, J.—We think the warrants in this case, as they stand, are, upon the face of them, illegal. In the first place, there is not sufficient on the deposition of the complainant, Sreenath Haldar, to make out that any offence has taken place. In the second place, there is no such offence as abduction under the Indian Penal Code; but abduction with certain intent is an offence. The warrants for the arrest of the persons without stating the intent are accordingly bad. Lastly, we think that the orders of the Magistrate of Dacca, directing the apprehension of the girl Bidhoomookhee, and that she should be made over to Sreenath Haldar, the prosecutor, her granduncle, are equally illegal. They seem to have been passed in great haste and without sufficient cause. There is nothing to show that Sreenath Haldar is the lady's lawful guardian. We think that the warrants, as they stand, must be set aside.

We pass no further order in the case, as we are told that no further proceedings are to be taken in the matter.

The 21st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Miscarriage—Section 312, Penal Code.

The Queen *versus* Kabul Pattur and Jhumpa, *Appellants.*

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Cuttack, on charges of attempt to cause miscarriage, &c.

The offence defined in Section 312 can only be committed when a woman is, in fact, pregnant.

Kemp, J.—We are of opinion that the accused Jhumpa must be acquitted.

A woman who causes herself to miscarry would come within the meaning of Section 312. But in this case it is admitted that Jhumpa was not pregnant, and the offence defined by Section 312 can only be committed where the woman is, in fact, pregnant.

The conviction and sentence of the accused Kabul Pattur are confirmed.

To constitute the act of abetment, it is not necessary that the act abetted should be committed. The woman failed involuntarily in causing abortion, but the prisoner Kabul Pattur instigated her to commit the offence, believing her to be pregnant.

The 21st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Procedure—Criminal misappropriation—Charge.

C. A. Chetter, *Appellant.*

Mr. C. Gregory for Appellant.

mmitted by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh, on a charge of criminal breach of trust.

he misappropriation of each separate item of ney with which a person is entrusted is a separate ence, and the facts connected with it should form the ject of a separate enquiry. The duty of a commit- officer in such a case is to select certain distinct ns, to frame his charges upon them, and to adduce dence specially upon those items.

Jackson, J.—THE prisoner, Chetter, was e darogah of the Mymensingh jail. He s been convicted of criminal breach of ust in misappropriating moneys received him in the course of his duty as darogah, d has been sentenced to three years' impri- nment. He has appealed from these orders, d urges that he is innocent of any offence. here is some difficulty in dealing with the se in consequence of the manner in which e charges have been framed, and because many charges of different breaches of ust have been mixed up together in the me committal. I would point out, for the ture guidance of the magisterial authori- s, that the misappropriation of each se- rate item of money with which a person entrusted is a separate offence, and the cts connected with it should form the bject of a separate enquiry, inasmuch as generally has to be supported by separate idence. In the present case, the prisoner, hetter, was charged with misappropriating ms of money received by him—1st, as the ice of rations for the prisoners; 2nd, as e salary of some of the establishment; 3rd, s the diet-money of civil prisoners; 4th, as e price of convict-labour; and, 5th, as the rice of articles of jail-manufacture sold by im; and numerous items were charged gainst him on each of these five separate eads of charge. There cannot be less than fty different offences in this way mixed up gether in this one case, each different item f offence requiring distinct evidence to prove . The difficulty to any individual who as so many charges brought against him n one single commitment in adducing his evidence upon each separate item is inconceivable. It is a hardship to which no one should be subjected. The duty of the committing officer in such a case is to select certain distinct items, and to frame his charges upon them—to adduce evidence specially upon those items—to prove that although the moneys relating to them were made over to the prisoner for a certain specific purpose, he had not applied them to that purpose, but had misappropriated them. * * * * * *.

The 21st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Procedure—Witnesses—Public servant—Section 228, Penal Code.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Nuddea.

The Queen *versus* Chota Hurry Pramanick Tantee and another.

No conviction can be had under Section 228 of the Penal Code, simply because witnesses in a case give inconsistent evidence, and give their evidence reluctantly, and take up the time of the Court.

Norman, C.J.—THESE two persons, witnesses in a criminal case, have been punished by the Deputy Magistrate, professing to act under Section 163 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for alleged offences under Section 228 of the Indian Penal Code.

The Deputy Magistrate finds that they "have, in their depositions, spoken tissues of inconsistencies, have shown throughout a reluctance to speak the truth, and have certainly caused much interruption to the Court by taking up its valuable time for nothing." But this conduct, however reprehensible in itself, is not one of the offences pointed out in Section 228, which provides for the punishment of any person "who intentionally offers any insult or causes any interruption to any public servant, while such public servant is sitting in any stage of a judicial proceeding."

We, therefore, quash the conviction, and direct the re-payment of the fines of Rupees 10 on each prisoner, if the amount of such fines has been realized.

The 21st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Unlawful assembly—Evidence—Riot—Section 54, Penal Code.

Criminal Revisional Jurisdiction.

In the matter of

C. G. D. Betts and Mahomed Ismail Chowdhry, *Petitioners.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy* for the Petitioners.

Baboo Juggadanund Mookerjee for the Government.

Procedure to be observed in the case of a charge under Section 154, Penal Code, against the owner of land on which an unlawful assembly is held, pointed out. The record of the original riot case is no evidence in the case under Section 154.

Bayley, J.—It is clear (and the Government Advocate does not contend that it is otherwise) that the conviction in these two cases has been had on the evidence taken in the original riot-case in which these petitioners were not before the Court; at any rate, they were neither convicted nor acquitted in that case.

Now, a charge under Section 154 of the Indian Penal Code ought to be a clear and distinct charge of the offence specified in that Section. After such charge, the prisoner should be called on to plead, and, if his plea is not guilty, then legal evidence for the prosecution should be gone into. The records of another case would not of themselves be legal evidence itself for the conviction. This separate evidence in support of the charge under Section 154 being given, and a *primâ-facie* case being made out for the prosecution, the prisoner must then be allowed opportunity to rebut that evidence, after which judgment should be passed.

In this case, however, no such procedure has been observed, and there is no evidence to support the charge, except the reference to the records of the riot-case, and the presumptions arising therefrom.

The proceedings of the Lower Courts are set aside, and the fines ordered to be refunded.

The 21st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

Criminal trespass—Joint family—Section 441, Penal Code.

Criminal Revisional Jurisdiction.

Prankisto Chunder and Jadub Chunder Haldar, *Petitioners,*

versus

Bissonath Chunder, *Opposite Party.*

Baboos Sham Lall Mitter and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for Petitioners.

Baboos Ashootosh Dhur and *Nil Madhub Sein* for Opposite Party.

To bring a case under the definition of criminal trespass in Section 441 of the Penal Code, the entry must be made with the intent to commit an offence, or to intimidate, insult, or annoy.

One member of a joint family commits no trespass by entering the house which forms the joint property, but he is guilty of that offence when he enters the room ordinarily occupied by another member of the family.

Norman, C. J.—This case does not appear to have been tried either by the Joint-Magistrate or the Judge on appeal with a sufficiently careful advertence to the definition of criminal trespass in Section 441. Prankisto, being a member of the joint family, committed no trespass by entering the house, which was the joint property of himself and the complainant, Bissonath Chunder. Nor did Jadub Chunder, who entered with Prankisto and by his license, commit the offence of trespass by merely entering the joint family house.

Prankisto entered the room which was ordinarily occupied by Bissonath Chunder, and that entry into Bissonath's room was, we think, rightly treated by the Joint-Magistrate as a trespass. To make it a criminal trespass, the entry must have been "*with intent to commit an offence, or to intimidate, insult, or annoy*" Bissonath.

The Joint-Magistrate says that "there "can be no doubt that this was done with "the intention, *as legally understood,* of "annoying Bissonath." We do not understand what the Magistrate means by the qualification of the term "annoying." If he means something less than annoyance, as the term is ordinarily understood, we think it is not sufficient.

It was contended for the defendants that they acted in good faith. If they did so act in good faith with intent to vindicate Prankisto's supposed rights or those of the bodies of his immediate family, though under a mistaken notion as to the rights of Prankisto, they certainly cannot be said to have acted with intent to annoy Bissonath. The Joint-Magistrate seems to leave out of the question the supposition that they intended "to commit an offence," which, if anything, would, we suppose, be the offence of theft.

We notice that Jadub Chunder did not enter the room of Bissonath. If guilty at all, he can only be so as a person aiding and abetting the offence of Prankisto.

We think that there should be a new trial of the appeal before the Judge.

The 30th January 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Accused person—Witnesses for the defence.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Sessions Judge of Tirhoot.

Ram Sahie Chowdhry and others versus *Sunker Bahadoor.*

An accused person is entitled to have his witnesses summoned and examined, even if those witnesses were named as implicated in the offence with which the accused is charged.

Reference.—THE facts of the case are simple.

Prisoners are charged with cutting a Government road, and were punished by fine under Section 431. They denied the charge, and called certain witnesses in their defence.

The Deputy Magistrate did not think it necessary to summon their witnesses, as they had been named as being implicated in the cutting.

As this is an error which vitiates the trial, and an application has been made to me to refer the case under Section 434, I accordingly request that the High Court will pass such order as they may think proper.

Judgment of the High Court.

Ainslie, J.—We concur with the Sessions Judge in thinking that the accused persons were entitled to have the witnesses named by them for their defence examined. It does not appear that the Magistrate thought it worth while to prosecute those persons as parties to the offence, even if he had grounds for so doing; and he could not legally declare beforehand that he would not believe them on their oath. We must quash the conviction.

The 24th January 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Appellate Court—Enhancement of punishment—Whipping—Rigorous imprisonment—Fine—Section 419, Code of Criminal Procedure—Section 12, Act VI. of 1864.

Reference to the High Court by the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, at the instance of the Magistrate of the District.

The Queen *versus* Bunda Ali.

A Deputy Magistrate passed a sentence of six months' rigorous imprisonment and a whipping of 20 stripes on a person whom he convicted of house-breaking. The Sessions Judge on appeal set aside the sentence of whipping, and commuted that portion of the sentence into one of rigorous imprisonment for three months.

HELD that the Sessions Judge acted rightly in setting aside the sentence of whipping, as the conviction was a first conviction of the offence; but that the commutation of the sentence of whipping into one of three months' rigorous imprisonment amounted to an enhancement of the sentence which had been passed by the Deputy Magistrate, and was, therefore, illegal, having regard to Section 419 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The High Court accordingly set aside the sentence of three months' additional rigorous imprisonment.

Per Mitter, J.—Section 12 of the Whipping Act (VI. of 1864) refers to the Court by which a case is tried in the first instance, and not to a Court of appeal.

Quære.—Can a sentence of fine be substituted for one of imprisonment?

Loch, J.—It appears to me that the view taken by the Sessions Judge is not correct, and that his order is, in effect, an enhancement of the sentence passed upon the prisoner by the Deputy Magistrate. The prisoner was convicted of house-breaking, and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for six months and to be whipped. As this was a first offence of the kind, so much of the sentence as directed the prisoner to be whip-

ped, passed by the Deputy Magistrate, was illegal, and has rightly been set aside by the Sessions Judge; but when the Sessions Judge went further, and sentenced the prisoner to three months' imprisonment, in addition to the six months' already given him by the Deputy Magistrate, his order was undoubtedly an enhancement of the sentence passed upon the prisoner by the Deputy Magistrate. The whipping was in addition to any other punishment to which the prisoner might be liable under the Penal Code. This additional punishment was illegal in the present case, and the Judge could not legally, as in fact he has done, commute it to further imprisonment of three months.

I think the order of the Sessions Judge, as regards the additional imprisonment for three months to which he has sentenced the prisoner, must be set aside.

Mitter, J.—I am of opinion that the additional sentence of three months' rigorous imprisonment passed by the Sessions Judge in this case is contrary to law.

Section 419 of the Code of Criminal Procedure says: "The Appellate Court may, "after perusing the proceedings of the Lower "Court, and after hearing the plaintiff or "his Counsel or agent, reverse or *alter* the "sentence of that Court, *but not so as to* "*enhance the punishment that shall have* "*been awarded.*"

I think that the Appellate Court is bound under this Section to satisfy itself, beyond all reasonable doubt, that the alteration which it proposes to make in the sentence of the Lower Court would not amount to an enhancement of the punishment already awarded by that Court. If the alteration is restricted merely to the *degree* of the sentence, no difficulty whatever can possibly arise. But if, on the other hand, it goes to affect the *nature* of the sentence, as in the present case, the difficulty becomes almost insurmountable. Things dissimilar in nature do not admit of any direct comparison with one another; and if there is no fixed scale or standard by which the comparison can be made, the task must be given up as a helpless one.

The learned Judge says that a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for nine months is equivalent to one of rigorous imprisonment for six months coupled with whipping. But from what materials this calculation has been made, I am wholly unable to make out. Granting that whipping is generally looked upon as a more degrading puni- ment than imprisonment, it does not ne- cessarily follow that the substitution of rigorous imprisonment for whipping would not, under any circumstances, amount to enhancement of punishment. A poor wretch who has got a large family to support might prefer to be let off with a few stripes, instead of being incarcerated in jail for any lengthen- ed period of time; and in his case at least the Appellate Court is bound to show satis- factorily that it is not really *enhancing* the punishment, before it undertakes to substitute the one punishment for the other without his consent.

But, be this as it may, it seems to me perfectly clear that the Legislature has not supplied us with any data from which the comparative severity of the two sentences under our consideration can be determined, and it is, therefore, impossible to say how many strokes of the cat-o'-nine-tails would be equivalent to a sentence of rigorous imprison- ment for a given period of time. It cannot be contended for one moment that each indivi- dual Judge is at liberty, in a case of this kind, to act according to an arbitrary standard of his own. Every discretion vested in a Court of Justice must be exercised in a reasonable manner and upon reasonable grounds; and the power of altering the sentence conferred upon the Appellate Court by the provisions of the Section above quoted is by no means an exception to this rule. If we hold with the learned Judge that a sentence of six stripes is equivalent to one of rigorous im- prisonment for three months, there seems to be no reason whatever why another Judge should not be permitted to hold that the same sentence is equivalent to one of rigo- ous imprisonment for as many years. The Appellate Court can alter the sentence of the Lower Court, it is true; but if it is not in a position to say, upon some reasonable grounds, that the alteration which it pro- poses to make would not amount to enhance- ment of punishment, it is bound to reject that alteration as contrary to the express provisions of the law.

Whether a sentence of fine can be substi- tuted for one of imprisonment or not, is a question upon which I wish to express no opinion. The Legislature has, in some cases, laid down the limits within which the two punishments can be awarded in the alternative, and within those limits the Ap- pellate Court may make any alteration in the sentence of the Lower Court it may

ink proper. But the case now before us nds on quite a different footing. Here re is no legal or rational standard of comison of any kind whatever; and in the ence of such a standard, the learned dge had no power to take it for granted a sentence of 20 stripes was equivalent one of rigorous imprisonment for three nths.

But there is another ground upon which Judge's view appears to me to be oneous. It is admitted on all sides the sentence of whipping passed by Deputy Magistrate in this case was alether illegal. Such a sentence is, in the of the law, an absolute nullity, and the rned Judge ought to have, therefore, exded it from his consideration in estimating amount of punishment awarded by the puty Magistrate. That punishment was of six months' rigorous imprisonment, and as this punishment only that the learned dge had to deal with in fixing the final tence, the other punishment, namely, that whipping, being absolutely null and void, d therefore liable to be considered as if it d never been passed at all. If the Deputy gistrate had not sentenced the prisoner to ipping in addition to rigorous imprisonnt for six months, it is perfectly clear that learned Judge could not have added a gle day to the period of imprisonment. w, then, can it be contended that the mere t of the Deputy Magistrate having passed additional sentence of whipping, which tence was wholly illegal and void, enabled learned Judge to increase that period m six to nine months? The learned Judge mits that he did so because he thought t six months' rigorous imprisonment would t be sufficient to meet the gravity of the ence committed. But, if this is not tantaount to enhancement of punishment, it is ficult to say what enhancement of punishnt means. It may be that the Deputy Matrate might have sentenced the prisoner to erm of imprisonment longer than six months, he had been aware of the fact that he had o power to pass the additional sentence of hipping. But all speculations of this nature e beyond the province of an Appellate Court, I see no reason whatever why that Court ould be permitted, upon the basis of such eculations, to do what it could never have one if the lower Court had not, in passing e sentence, gone beyond the limits fixed by e law. The addition of the illegal sentence whipping by the Deputy Magistrate could not have possibly increased the power of the learned Judge sitting as a Court of appeal; and the prisoner was therefore entitled to stand before him as if that addition had never been made at all. To hold otherwise would be to take advantage of an illegality committed by the Deputy Magistrate, and the prisoner has therefore every right to contend that no such advantage ought to be taken against him in dealing with *his* appeal.

The case put by the learned Judge, in which the sentence of the Lower Court is found to be altogether illegal, stands on quite a different footing. It may be that the Appellate Court may, in such cases, quash the sentence as absolutely null and void, and direct the Lower Court to pass a new sentence according to law, or it may even pass such a sentence upon its own authority. But I do not wish to express any opinion on this point, one way or the other. It is sufficient for me to say that the three months of rigorous imprisonment added in this case to the six months already awarded by the Deputy Magistrate clearly amounted to enhancement of punishment, and that the case falls therefore within the express words used in the last portion of Section 419.

In conclusion, I have simply to observe that the argument based upon the provisions of Section 12 of the Whipping Act has no bearing upon this case. That Section refers to the Court by which the case is tried in the first instance, and not to a Court of appeal.

For the above reasons I would reduce the sentence passed by the Sessions Judge to one of rigorous imprisonment for six months only.

The 26th January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Amends—Perjury—Section 270, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Patna.

The Queen *versus* Roopun Rae.

A Magistrate having jurisdiction is authorized by law in making an order under Section 270, Code of Criminal Procedure, directing the complainant to make

amends to the accused, notwithstanding that the complainant is to take his trial for perjury.

Reference.—One Roopun complained before the Assistant Magistrate of Patna that certain persons forcibly rescued some cattle that he was taking to the thannah. In his preliminary examination he stated that of these persons "Moorut struck me thrice with a lathee," but when confronted with the accused persons he subsequently deposed: "Dhodhee struck me three times with a "lathee; no one else struck me. Moorut "did not strike me."

On the 18th October the Assistant Magistrate dismissed this complaint, which he tried under Chapter XV., and under Section 270 ordered the complainant to pay to the three accused persons compensation amounting in the aggregate to Rupees 100. Simultaneously, or I should more correctly state on the next day, the Assistant Magistrate instituted proceedings against the complainant for having intentionally given false evidence by reason of his having made these two contradictory statements, and he was committed for trial to the Court of Session.

To Dhodhee	...	40
" Moorut	...	40
" Meghoo	...	20
	Rs.	100

I submit that inasmuch as the Assistant Magistrate had determined to prosecute Roopun Rae for having intentionally given false evidence, in that he falsely charged Dhodhee and two others, it was not competent in him to prejudge the result of the Sessions trial and award compensation, that being a point which would come before the Sessions Court for trial, and on which that Court might hold a contrary opinion. Further, if it should so happen that the Sessions Court should concur with the opinion of the Assistant Magistrate, it was fully competent to the Judge to give the requisite compensation.

I also submit that the mere fact of committing the prisoner on contradictory statements, without any evidence as to the truth or falseness of either, showed that the Assistant Magistrate could not confidently state that both charges were false.

I would add, in conclusion, that Roopun was acquitted by the Sessions Court, there being no evidence forthcoming to show that the prisoner before the Court was the same man who deposed before the Committing Officer.

Jackson, J.—It appears to me that in this case the Magistrate was competent to award compensation to the persons accused by Roopun, assuming them to have been tried and lawfully tried, under the 15th Chapter of the Criminal Procedure Code, notwithstanding that he afterwards committed, and even if he had then made up his mind to commit, Roopun to take his trial on the charge of giving false evidence.

In the first place, the acquittal of Roopun (which took place in the Court of Session) would not establish affirmatively the truth of either of the contradictory statements which he was charged with having made, nor would it negative the finding that his complaint was frivolous and vexatious.

In the second place, if that were the result of his acquittal, I should still be of opinion that a Magistrate, having jurisdiction, would be authorized by law in making his order under Section 270, notwithstanding that the complainant was to take his trial for perjury.

It would, no doubt, be a matter of regret if the Magistrate and the Court of Session came to opposite conclusions upon the same question.

But a like result not unfrequently occurs in cases where the decision of a civil suit is followed by a criminal prosecution of one of the parties or of his witnesses; each tribunal comes to its own independent conclusion, and the two are by no means invariably identical.

It seems to have been held by this Court in 1865 that a Magistrate might award compensation under Section 270, and also give his sanction to a prosecution under Section 211, Indian Penal Code.

Whether the Magistrate, in making this order, exercised a proper discretion, is a different question, on which, I think, we need not give an opinion.

One thing, however, is clear, namely, that the compensation awarded in this case was altogether unreasonable and disproportionate to the circumstances of the parties, and it is unfortunate that the law provides no means of setting the matter right in this respect. A proper measure of amends would seem to have been about one-fifth of that actually ordered.

Upon the Judge's letter of reference, I think it right to observe that it seems very doubtful whether, as he supposes, the Court of Session, if it convicted Roopun, could make a similar order to that made by the Magistrate. The Judge probably refers to Section

, Code of Criminal Procedure, but that Sec-
n apparently does not support his opinion
this case.

Again, it is stated that Roopun was acquit-
on the ground that there was no evidence
thcoming to identify him with the person
o had made the false or contradictory
tements. It is difficult to believe that
dence upon this point could not have
en easily procured if the Judge had ad-
rned the trial; and I conceive it would
e been his duty to do so in the circum-
nces, unless, which appears very probable,
acquittal really proceeded on the footing
t the case ought not to proceed.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 31st January 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Dying Declaration—Procedure.

Revision of proceedings in the case of Sheikh Tenoo.

efore a dying declaration can be received in evi-
ce, it must be distinctly found that the person who
e the declaration knew or believed at the time he
e it that he was dying, or was likely to die.

here a Sessions Judge sees from the Magistrate's
rd that there is evidence which could prove that
declaration was a dying declaration, he should call
hat evidence. A Magistrate should, in all cases in
h dying declarations are made, examine the com-
nant on the point, and record the question as well
he answer to it upon the record of the examina-
.

Jackson, J.—THE difficulty to my mind
dealing with this case is that the accused
e been virtually acquitted by a Jury,
d that such an acquittal is final. It is
e that the Sessions Judge does not use
expression "*acquitted,*" but "*discharg-*
" but, after the evidence for the prosecu-
n had closed, he summed up the case to
Jury, and the Jury unanimously acquitted.
e only ground upon which such a verdict can be set aside is that there had been some misdirection in the charge of the Judge to the Jury. Now, in this case, there was no such misdirection. The Judge told the Jury that there was no evidence to prove that the deceased man's statement was made with any knowledge or belief that he was likely to die; and, in fact, no such evidence had been given by any witness in the course of the trial. The Sub-Inspector of Police might have given such evidence, if he had been examined upon the point; but no question was put to him to elicit the fact from him. The Civil Surgeon might have perhaps given some evidence upon the subject, but he was not called for the prosecution. Similarly, Mr. Marcus, the House Surgeon at the Hospital, who was present when the wounded man was examined, might have given evidence, but he also was not called for the prosecution. Even the examination of the Civil Surgeon before the Magistrate was not put in as evidence for the prosecution. The Deputy Magistrate, the only witness who was called to speak to the declaration, distinctly gave his evidence that he did not know whether the wounded man at the time knew or believed that he was in danger of death.

The Sessions Judge did not put the case to the Jury until the whole of the evidence offered for the prosecution had been taken. If there was more evidence which might have been offered, it was the fault of the officer conducting the prosecution that it was not offered. The fact that such evidence existed, and was not offered, is no sufficient ground for setting aside a verdict of acquittal. Although I think blame is to be attributed to the officers who committed the case, and who conducted the prosecution, I think that the Judge also should have seen from the Magistrate's record that evidence could have been procured which would have proved that the declaration of the wounded man

was a dying declaration, and he should have called for that evidence.

The Judge has given it as his opinion that, even if the declaration was received in evidence, there would have been no sufficient proof of the guilt of the accused. I do not altogether agree with him. There would certainly have been evidence upon which a Jury might have convicted.

I think that this commitment was made without a proper, thorough enquiry into all the facts of the case, and without an examination of many witnesses who might have thrown light upon it. Mr. Pawsey, the Joint Magistrate, refused to examine several witnesses who had been sent in by the police, because apparently he disbelieved what they were going to depose to. I suppose he examined them orally in the first place. I cannot understand how otherwise he could have learnt what they were going to depose to. Perhaps he may have learnt it from some police-report. However, he did not examine them. He certainly should have examined them. Whether their evidence turned out to be true or false, and concocted at the instigation of the police, they should still have been examined. It is clear that there were many witnesses who might have been examined in the case, but who were not. There were witnesses who were present when the Sub-Inspector saw marks near the accused's dwelling-house, which looked as if a body had been dragged along the ground. Those witnesses were not examined; but the Sub-Inspector's evidence to the fact was alone taken, though Mr. Pawsey held that that Sub-Inspector had been concocting false evidence against the accused. The cow-herd, Balokee, might have been called, as the wife of the deceased states that he told her that the deceased's missing cow was tied up in the accused's house. But Balokee was never examined. The Civil Surgeon either should have been called as a witness, or his deposition before the Joint Magistrate offered in evidence. But neither the one nor the other course was adopted.

The circumstance that the Deputy Magistrate, who was examined by the Sessions Judge afterwards, had a stroke of paralysis would have been no sufficient ground for admitting his examination before the Joint Magistrate as evidence in the Sessions Court. There is every reason to suppose that the Deputy Magistrate spoke truly before the Sessions Court, and that he had omitted to examine the wounded man as to whether he knew he was then dying, or believed he was likely to die. Not only should all Magistrates in such cases examine a complainant on such a point, but they should always record the question as well as the answer to it upon the record of the examination. The deposition in this case is said to have been on oath, and not upon solemn affirmation, as it should have been; and it is not attested, as directed by law, by the Deputy Magistrate, who only scribbled one or two of his initials under it. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of seeing that every form of law is carefully attended to in taking down dying declarations, which it is expected will be required as evidence after the death of the declarants. Any mistake or error then committed cannot be rectified afterwards.

There has been no illegality in the trial before the Sessions Court, and therefore we cannot set aside the proceedings in that Court.

Mookerjee, J.—I see no reason to interfere. It is said that a dying declaration of the deceased was taken by Baboo Kalinath Ghose, Deputy Magistrate, who had been examined by the Joint Magistrate, and that this was good evidence under Section

of the Procedure Code and Section 29, II. of 1855. But, according to the for- enactment, the declaration of a deceas- person is only evidence when the de- ed, "at the time of making such decla- n, believed himself to be in danger approaching death, although he enter- ed, at the time of making it, hopes of very." Section 29 of Act II. also en- that, where dying declarations are ence, "they shall be received, if it *be ed* that the deceased was, at the time of ing the declaration, and then thought self to be, in danger of approaching h." &c. Both these enactments, then, ired that, before a dying declaration is ived in evidence, it should be *proved* the person making it believed himself e in danger of approaching death. It ears that it is only on the supposition in this awful state, while at the con- of a future world, he is not likely to k a falsehood, that such statement of eceased are received in evidence; and fore the law very properly requires it shall be proved that the deceased really believe that he was in this state re his statement shall be received in nce.

the present case, the Judge is right stating that the Deputy Magistrate, in his deposition before the Joint istrate, did not state that the deceased, boo Singh, believed, at the time that he e the statement to him, that he, Sumboo, in danger of approaching death. In examination before the Sessions Court, distinctly deposed that the deceased not say that he knew he was dying;" then, "I thought he would not live, I did not say so to him;" and, further that "I cannot swear that the man or believed himself to be dying." e was, therefore, no evidence before the Judge that the deceased, Sumboo, believed himself to be in danger of death, so as to make his declaration a dying declaration under the laws cited by the Magistrate.

"The general principle upon which," says Eyre, C.B., "evidence of this kind is admitted, is, that it is of declarations made in extremity, when the party is at the point of death, and when every hope of this world is gone—when every motive to falsehood is silenced, and the mind is induced by the most powerful consideration to speak the truth." There is nothing to show in the evidence before the Judge that the party was aware of his situation, namely, that death was impending. The Sub-Inspector of Police, in his deposition before the Judge, does not state that the deceased knew or expressed to him his belief that he was in danger of death. It is to be regretted that no question was asked to him while in the box, for it appears that in his evidence before the Joint Magistrate he stated the deceased said "he would not live," and that thereupon he, the Sub-Inspector, "sent him off to Dacca." There may be cases in which, although the deceased was not heard distinctly to say that he was in danger of his life, and believed himself dying, but in which, by the conduct of the deceased person, it was evident that he believed himself at the brink of eternity—such as settling his affairs, taking leave of his relatives, providing for his shradh, and the like. In such cases it may be held that the statement of that person is admissible as dying declaration, because the deceased was under the belief that death was approaching. There are no such circumstances in this case to show that the deceased, by his conduct, manifested that he was under a belief that he was on the point of death. Mr. Taylor in his Work on Evidence states (para. 648, Ed. 1868) "that it is essential to the admissi-

bility of these declarations—

"*1st.*—That the declarant should have been in actual danger of death.

"*2nd.*—That he should have had a full apprehension of his danger.

"*3rd.*—That death should have ensued."

All these facts must be proved to the satisfaction of the Judge before the declaration can be received as evidence, which is not done in this case.

On the other point submitted in this reference, as to whether the omission to record the verdict of the Jury in the terms prescribed by the Criminal Procedure Code is or is not such an irregularity as requires the trial to be quashed and a new one ordered, we do not see that the law is so strict or distinct on the point. I would, therefore, not interfere in this case, and will not direct a new trial.

The 4th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Recognizance— Bond to keep the peace— Forfeiture.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Sessions Judge of Dacca, in the case of Jaha Bux.

Baboo Ram Churn Mitter for the Petitioner.

Where the terms of a bond to keep the peace are general, the recognizances may be forfeited on any breach of the peace, whether the assault be committed against the person on whose charge the bond was originally taken or not.

Jackson, J.—In this case one Jaha Bux was called upon to give recognizance for Rupees 500 that he would not break the peace for a term of six months. It appears that, within that time, he was charged with assault. He was fined for the assault, and he was called upon to pay up the amount of the recognizances. He appealed to the Sessions Judge, and the Sessions Judge has sent the case up to this Court for revision on the ground that the breach of the peace which actually occurred, and upon which the recognizances were forfeited, was a very small matter, and that the actual applicant on the occasion when the recognizances were taken from Jaha Bux was a different person from the person who was afterwards assaulted. The Sessions Judge thinks that, the recognizances to keep the peace having been obtained by one Kadir Bux, they cannot be escheated if the defendant assaults somebody else. There is no warrant in law, however, for any such ruling. The bond is general. It is a bond to keep the peace generally, and the amount can be escheated if the peace is broken under any circumstances.

The Sessions Judge is also wrong in saying that this bond was only taken from the defendant in consequence of one breach of the peace against Kadir Bux. It was taken in consequence of repeated breaches of the peace, and in consequence of the notorious character of the defendant as a breaker of the peace. There is no doubt that the amount of the recognizances is somewhat heavy in comparison with the actual assault which has now been committed. But it is admitted that we have no authority to interfere on that point.

We differ from the Sessions Judge, and think that there is nothing wrong in law in the order of the Joint Magistrate. We therefore decline to interfere.

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The 4th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

ocedure—Witnesses for the defence—Chap-er XIV. and Section 253, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mohima Chunder Shah, *Petitioner.*

r. W. A. Montriou and *Baboos Sreenath Dass* and *Kalidass Bhunjee* for Peti-tioner.

n a case falling under Chapter XIV. of the Code of minal Procedure, a Magistrate is bound by Section to summon the witnesses for the defence, even if he ertain doubts as to the value of their evidence, as it impossible to state beforehand what credit will be en to their evidence.

Jackson, J.—THIS is an application on be-lf of one Mohima Chunder Shah, who was ed by Baboo Poorno Chunder Ghose, the eputy Magistrate of Dacca, and convicted the 14th December 1870 under Section 2 of the Indian Penal Code and also under ction 384 of that Code, and who has been ntenced to imprisonment and fine. The arge against him was wrongfully confin-g the complainant, and committing extor-n.

It is said that a number of dependants of e applicant, Mohima Chunder Shah, and of s relation, Seeta Nauth Shah, went to e house of the complainants, and forcibly ized them, and carried them off to the house the said Seeta Nauth Shah and Mohima hunder Shah, and there confined them, and torted from them the sum of Rs. 110.

The Deputy Magistrate, who tried this se, states that the witnesses for the prose-tion were examined before him on the 9th d 10th of December and a portion of the th; and that, when the case was about to ose, an application was made to him on ehalf of Mohima Chunder Shah that two itnesses, who were considered by him to e important for the defence, should be sum-oned and examined. These two witnesses ere, one a man by the name of Kali Kinkur, ho had been said by the case for the pro-secution to be a dependant in some way of some of the defendants, but who was stated to have been a person who interceded on behalf of the complainants, and who lent them the money which was paid to the de-fendants, and which formed the subject of the charge of extortion. The other witness was one Rai Churn Chowkedar, who was also mentioned by the witnesses for the prosecu-tion and the complainants as having seen them being dragged to the kutcherry of the defendants. The Deputy Magistrate was of opinion that Kali Kinkur's evidence was not material, because he was not said to have been actually present when the money was paid. And, as regards Rai Churn Chowke-dar, the Deputy Magistrate states that he would not believe his denial, even if he gave evidence that he had not seen what the wit-nesses for the prosecution stated had oc-curred.

There was an appeal subsequently from the order of the Deputy Magistrate to the Judge; and the Judge also, in passing orders in the case, stated that, in his opinion, it was not necessary to call these witnesses, because, as far as he could see from the case before him, even if they did give evidence for the defence, he would not believe them. The application to us has reference more espe-cially to these applications to the Lower Courts to examine these two witnesses for the defence.

The law, as regards the summoning of the witnesses for the defendant in a case of this description, is to be found in Chapter XIV., Section 253, Criminal Procedure Code. It is as follows: "The Magistrate shall sum-"mon any witness, and examine any evi-"dence, that may be offered in behalf of the "accused person to answer or disprove the "evidence against him, and may, for this "purpose, at his discretion, adjourn the "trial from time to time, as may be neces-"sary." The first question, then, for the Magistrate to consider was, whether these witnesses were, upon the facts stated for the prosecution, important witnesses upon the trial, and such as the defendant was entitled to have summoned, and their evidence taken, in order to disprove the evidence offered against him. There can be doubt, upon the evidence for the prosecution, that these wit-nesses were, if the story for the prosecution is true, eye-witnesses of the offence which was alleged against the defendant. It is impossible to state beforehand what credit will be given to the evidence of the witnesses.

We think, therefore, that, under the law, the Magistrate was bound to summon these two witnesses for the defence, and to have them examined. He has a discretion to adjourn the trial from time to time, as may be necessary, for the summoning of such witnesses; but, if those witnesses are really witnesses who can speak in any way to the facts of the case, and who may be material for the defence, the Magistrate should exercise that discretion, and should summon them.

The Sessions Judge was also, we think, wrong in law in rejecting the application of the defendant that these two witnesses should be examined. The Appellate Court has power under the law to order that further evidence shall be taken, if it is necessary. And we think that our proper course in this case is to order the Appellate Court to send down directions to the Magistrate to have the evidence of these two witnesses taken in the presence of the defendant, and to have their evidence sent up to the Appellate Court, and that the Appellate Court, after considering that evidence as well as the rest of the evidence in the case, will record a fresh judgment and decision as regards the defendant Mohima Chunder Shah.

I may add that, although in this case there has been already a conviction, and to some extent an opinion given by the Judge that he would not believe the evidence of these two witnesses whatever they may say, I have no doubt whatever that the Sessions Judge will, notwithstanding, give a full and fair consideration to whatever evidence may be given by these witnesses; and, after taking their evidence into proper consideration, will pass fresh orders upon the appeal of the defendant.

As regards the remaining defendants, although no application has been made before us, the learned Counsel for the defendant, Mohima Chunder Shah, has pressed upon the Court that the further trial, as regards them, should also be allowed before the Appellate Court. We think it is not necessary at present to pass any order as regards them. Should the result of this further trial before the Appellate Court be that Mohima Chunder Shah is held to be guiltless, it may possibly be that that may have some effect upon the case as against the other defendants. If so, their case can be taken into consideration when any application is made on their behalf. But it by no means follows that, even if Mohima Chunder Shah is guiltless, all the other defendants are innocent.

Mohima Chunder Shah will remain upon the bail which has been already ordered, until the Appellate Court has decided the case as regards hin.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 10th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Sessions record—Defence—Sections 372, 373, and 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference under Section 380 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation by the High Court of the sentence of death passed by the Sessions Judge of Patna on Gopal Hajjam and others.

A Sessions nuthee should contain the record of the defence set up by the prisoners in the Sessions Court. Points out how such record is to be made up with reference to Sections 372, 373, and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Ainslie, J.—THE prisoners have been convicted of murder by the unanimous verdict of a Jury, and sentenced to death by the Sessions Judge.

There is no ground for interfering with the verdict, which is conclusive as to the fact of the murder and the participation of all the prisoners therein. On perusing the evidence, we find that the prisoners stand convicted of the murder of a child of the age of about six years for the sake of his ornaments, and that all appear to have been present when the murder was committed, four of them actually taking part therein, while the fifth, in whose house the murder was committed, was standing by, and immediately after the death of the child joined in the theft of the ornaments which were found in his house, and in taking steps to conceal the corpse. It is impossible to draw any distinction as to the degree in which they are guilty, and we, therefore, confirm the

sentence of death passed by the Sessions Judge.

We observe that the Sessions Judge has not made any record of the defence set up by the prisoners in his Court. Under Section 372 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the accused is to be called on to enter upon his defence, and to produce his evidence. If he makes any statement in defence, it ought to be recorded; if he does not voluntarily make any statement, and declines to answer any question put by the Court under Section 373, the fact should be noted; and, when there is nothing else to show the nature of the defence, a note of the address to the Court (if any) under Section 374 should be recorded. The record is not complete unless it shows the nature of the defence set up.

As this trial was held before a Jury, the omission to make any note of the defence set up by the prisoners is not a defect by which they have been prejudiced. The Sessions Judge records that the accused severally addressed the Jury, and we have no doubt that the case was fully tried.

The 11th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judges*.

Police-officer—Public Servant—Section 29, Act V. of 1861—Section 218, Penal Code.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Backergunge, in the case of Boroda Kant Mookhopadhya.

A police-officer negligently or improperly submitting an incorrect report of a local investigation may be punished under Section 29 of Act V. of 1861 in cases where the proof is insufficient to bring the case under Section 218 of the Penal Code.

Norman, C. J.—In this case a head-constable has been convicted, under Section 29 of Act V. of 1861, of neglect of duty in submitting an incorrect plan and an untrue report of the results of a local investigation, and sentenced to a fine of 30 rupees by the Deputy Magistrate of Burrisal in Zillah Backergunge.

The Judge sends up the conviction under Section 434, thinking that the offence is one cognizable only under Section 218 of the Penal Code, which provides for the punishment of a public servant framing a record, or writing in a manner which he knows to be incorrect, with intent to cause loss or injury to the public, &c., or to save any person from legal punishment, &c. Under this Section, the offender is liable to imprisonment which may extend to three years.

We think, however, that a police-officer negligently or improperly submitting an incorrect report of a local investigation may be punished under Section 29 of Act V. of 1861 in cases where the proof is insufficient to bring the case under Section 218. We decline to interfere with the order of the Deputy Magistrate.

The 11th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble Dwarkanath Mitter and W. Ainslie, *Judges*.

Jury—Summing up—Culpable Homicide—Punishment—Section 304, Penal Code.

The Queen *versus* Kalichurn Dass and others, *Appellants*.

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Nuddea, on a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Baboos Mohinee Mohun Roy and *Biprodass Mookerjee* for Appellants

Where a Sessions Judge, in charging a Jury in a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, omitted to draw their attention to the two classes of culpable homicide mentioned in Section 304 of the Penal Code, the High Court considered that the accused were found guilty of the lighter description, and sentenced the accused to the punishment for such lighter description.

Milter, J.—THE prisoners in this case were found guilty by a Jury of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and sentenced by the Judge to transportation for life under the provisions of Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code. It appears, however, that the Judge, in charging the Jury, did not ask them to find specifically whether the prisoners had done the act with the intention of causing such bodily injury as was likely to cause death, or whether they had done it simply with the knowledge that it was likely to cause death, but without any intention to cause death, or to cause such bodily injury as was likely to cause death. Section 304 evidently draws a distinction between these two classes of culpable homicide, for in the one case the offender is liable to be sentenced to transportation for life, whereas the maximum punishment that can be inflicted in the other is a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for ten years.

Under these circumstances, it is quite clear that it was the duty of the Judge to point out this distinction to the Jury; and, as that has not been done in this case, we must take it for granted that the prisoners have been found guilty of the lighter description of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. This view is supported by a decision of this Court reported in XII. Weekly Reporter, page 35, Criminal Rulings; and we therefore reduce the sentence passed on each and all of the prisoners to one rigorous imprisonment for 10 (ten) ye We see no reason to mitigate the sente any further.

Ainslie, J.—I concur.

The 13th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiati Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. L *Judge.*

Breach of the peace—Recognizance—Secti 281 and 290, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Secti 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedu from the Officiating Sessions Judge Backergunge, in the case of Kalin Biswas.

Where *A* has been bound over to keep the pe under Section 281 of the Code of Criminal Proced at the instance of *B*, a Deputy Magistrate is not com tent to order him to enter into fresh recognizanc keep the peace on account of fresh disputes with C should refer the case to the Court of Session u Section 298 of the Code.

Norman, C. J.—KALINATH BISWAS, ing bound over to keep the peace under S tion 281, shortly before the expiration the recognizance, was found by the Dep Magistrate of Perozepore to be involved fresh disputes likely to involve a breach the peace with parties other than those respect of disputes with whom he was ready bound. The Deputy Magistrate ord ed him to enter into fresh recognizances keep the peace for one year.

The Sessions Judge, under Section 43 has sent up the order, being of opinion th the Deputy Magistrate had no power make it. In that opinion we concur. W think the Magistrate, finding that Kalin was involved in fresh disputes with ot persons, making it necessary, with a vi to securing the peace of the district, that should be bound over for a period extendi beyond one year, should have proceeded refer the case to the Court of Session un the provisions of the 298th Section.

We quash the order of the Deputy M trate.

The 18th February 1871.

Present:

e Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

nterfeiting a device or mark—Document—Sections 467 and 475, Penal Code.

e Queen *versus* Rughoonundun Puttronuvees, *Appellant.*

mitted by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of West Burdwan, on a harge of possessing counterfeit materials r the purpose of authenticating documents, &c.

Baboo Juggadanund Mookerjee for the Government.

aboo Petamber Chatterjee for the Appellant.

order to a conviction under Section 475 of the l Code, the document which the accused has in ossession must have some counterfeit device or k upon it, and it must be proved that the accused the document in his possession with the intent of such device or mark for the purpose of giving the arance of authenticity to the document. The doent must be of the nature mentioned in Section 467 e Penal Code.

Kemp, J.—THE prisoner, Rughoonundun tronuvees, has been convicted under Sec- 475 of the Indian Penal Code, and sen- ted to four years' rigorous imprisonment. e first information obtained against this oner was from one Benee Madhub Haza- the head ghatwal of the village of Tely- er, of the Bishtopore Thannah. It ap- rs that this party went to the Court pector, Ram Chunder Deechcheet, and ed that he could give information against prisoner and his brother, who are repre- ted to be "notorious, habitual, and profes- al forgers of documents, and as keeping s and other instruments of forgery, and stamps of old date." Upon this the pector told him that, if he would depose he same, he would take him to the gistrate. He was taken to the Magistrate; and Benee Madhub Hazaree then made a statement to the effect that the prisoner and his brother were notorious forgers, that he had been aware of this fact for the last two years, but that he had hitherto refrained from giving information, not being able to furnish any proof, but that lately the two brothers had become very bold and open in their work, that he had become convinced, and determined to give information. Upon this a search-warrant was addressed to Ram Chunder Deechcheet, who was directed to search the house of the prisoner "with the view to the finding of forged documents, counterfeit seals, and other instruments of forgery, including blank stamp-papers." On receiving this warrant, the Inspector, on the pretence, as he says, that he was going to take leave, went to his house, and afterwards to the house of Modhoosoodun Ugnihuttree, one of the principal ghatwals of the village in which the prisoner resides. He appears to have put up in that house for the night, and, before searching the house of the prisoner, to have sent a man obtained by him from Modhoosoodun to ascertain what the prisoner was doing. This man, the witness Nudya Chand Tantee, says that he went to the prisoner's house; that he found him sitting in a verandah with a box before him and a piece of stamp-paper on the box, upon which he was writing; that the prisoner, on seeing Nudya Chand, covered the stamp-paper with a cloth, and asked Nudya Chand to have a smoke; that Nudya, after smoking, returned and informed the Inspector of what he had seen; that upon this the Inspector collected a body of ghatwals, police-constables, and others, and searched the house of the prisoner. It is said by the Inspector in his evidence that some 12 or 14 respectable inhabitants of the village were sent for and were present at the search, but we may remark that none of these were examined. Of those present at the search who have been examined, the ghatwals of the village and the Court Inspector himself have alone been examined. In the house of the prisoner four or five boxes were found, one of which was a small box which was locked. It is said by the Inspector that the prisoner produced the key of this box, and on opening it certain documents were found. Afterwards, on the information of Modhoosoodun Ugnihuttree, a bundle of papers belonging to the prisoner is said to have been found in the house of the woman Nundee Goalinee. Subsequently another bundle is said to have been found in a gullee which runs to the

south of the prisoner's house, and divides the prisoner's house from that of Siboo Hattee, also a ghatwal, who was examined in this case. Subsequently another bundle of papers is said to have been found in a small tâl tree hid in the branches of the tree. One of the assessors, Baboo Kasheenath Banerjee, seems to have been satisfied with the evidence with reference to the finding of the box; but he was of opinion that there was no evidence of a reliable nature to trace the other properties found to the prisoner. That assessor held that the documents found in the box came within the purview of Section 475, and he therefore found the prisoner guilty. The other assessor appears to have believed the whole of the case, and the Judge agreed with that assessor.

We take the box-part of the case first, because on that part of the case there is the evidence of the Inspector that he found this box in the prisoner's house, and that the prisoner delivered up the key of the box to him, and that these documents were found in that box. Now, Section 475, under which the prisoner has been convicted in the latter portion of it, says that whoever, with such intent, that is to say, with the intent that such counterfeited device or mark shall be used for the purpose of giving the appearance of authenticity to any document then forged or thereafter to be forged on such material, has in his possession any material upon or in the substance of which any such device or mark has been counterfeited, is guilty of the offence described in that Section. Taking the documents found in the box seriatim, the first document, marked A, is a blank stamp-paper of the value of two annas with the signature of one Dole Gobindo Baboo. The endorsement on the back of that paper by the stamp-vendor shows that it was bought for the purpose of enabling Dole Gobindo Baboo to borrow money from one Doollubh Kobeeraj. Now, with reference to this document, we may observe that no device or mark appears to be counterfeited upon this document, and that there is nothing to show that the prisoner, with the intent of using such device or mark for the purpose of giving the appearance of authenticity to this document, had it in his possession. This document, moreover, is not a document which comes under the terms of Section 467 of the Indian Penal Code. It is not a will; it is not an authority to adopt a son; it is not a document which purports to give authority to any person to make or transfer any valuable security, &c.; and it is not a valuable security, as it is not a document whereby any legal right is created, extended, transferred, restricted, extinguished, or released, as described in Section 30 of the Code, or whereby any person acknowledges that he lies under legal liability, or has not a certain legal right. Moreover, it appears from the evidence of the son of Dole Gobindo Baboo, who has been examined, that the signature to this document is the signature of his father, and it also appears from the evidence of Doollubh Kobeeraj, who has likewise been examined in this case, that there was a talk of a loan being taken from him by Dole Gobindo Baboo; that Dole Gobindo was in the habit of taking loans by sending blank stamp papers signed by him; that the contemplated transaction ultimately fell through; and that this stamp-paper, found in the prisoner's box, is the stamp which Dole Gobindo Baboo sent to him with his signature on it.

The next paper, marked B, is a blank stamp paper, and this paper was purchased, as shown by the stamp-vendor's endorsement, for the purpose of borrowing money from the prisoner himself by a third party. Probably the transaction fell through, and the paper remained with the prisoner; but, be that as it may, it is not a paper which comes within the meaning of Section 475 of the Code.

"C" is an old bond of the year 12[illegible] This is not addressed to the prisoner at all, it is signed by one Nufur Bagtee, and addressed to Chundee Churn Chuckerbutty; it is for a sum of 17 rupees 2 annas; and two cows are pledged as security. The bond is an instrument upon which, looking to the Statute of Limitations, no money could be recovered, and which could not be made use of for any purpose whatever; and there is nothing on the face of it to show that it comes in any way within the purview of Section 475.

The next is a blank paper marked "D," and the remarks already made with reference to paper B apply to this paper. The other papers found in the box are pieces of plain country-paper without any writing upon them, and therefore, clearly, they cannot come under Section 475. Admitting, therefore, that this box was found in the prisoner's house, and that the evidence of the Court Inspector Ram Chunder Deechcheet is to be depended upon as to the finding of this

no offence has been proved against the oner under Section 475.

ith regard to the remaining part of the , namely, the finding of the other papers, are of opinion with the assessor Kanath Banerjee that there is no evidence ny reliable nature to trace these papers e possession of the prisoner. As to the dle of papers said to have been found in house of Nundee Goalinee, it is said that got these papers from one Kheeree, a servant of the prisoner's house, who obtained them from Troyluckko, the bro- of the prisoner; but this is denied by eree, and the evidence of the woman is conflicting. There is also a very susus circumstance about this part of the namely, that the party who was instrutal in tracing these papers to the pri- is Modhoosoodun Ugnihuttree, a admittedly in enmity with the pri-, and a sirdar ghatwal. It is proved e record that there was a village-feud, hich the ghatwals were on one side, the prisoner at the head of the other . The finding of the bundle in the e also appears to us to be very suspici- to say the least of it. The guards who placed at each end of the gullee were wals, enemies of the prisoner; and none e respectable neighbours who are said ve been present at the time were called examined; and although the two ghatwals hat they saw the prisoner go into the gul- and some time after saw this bundle lying mongst the *ole catchoo* plants close to the ouse of the ghatwal Shiboo Hattee, there is o evidence that they attempted to prevent he prisoner from going into the gullee, and hey seem to have contented themselves ith giving information to the Police Inpector about the papers. As to the finding f the other bundle in the tâl tree, we tterly disbelieve that part of the case. The story of the prosecution as to the finding of this bundle is wholly improbable, and there is no evidence of any reliable nature to support it.

On the whole of the case, we are of opinion that there is nothing to bring home to him the offence with which he has been charged under Section 475 of the Indian Penal Code. We therefore acquit him, and direct his immediate release.

The 18th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Contraband Salt—Confiscation—Act VII. B. C. of 1864.

Revision of proceedings, under Section 404 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in the case of the Government of Bengal, Petitioner, versus *Akatoollah and others, Opposite Party.*

Baboo Juggadanund Mookerjee for the Government.

If salt exceeding five seers is found within the limits prescribed by Section 12, Act VII., B. C., of 1864, unprotected by a rowannah, as required under Sections 13 and 15, the salt must be held as contraband under Section 16. The power of a Magistrate under Section 29 to confiscate salt not protected by a rowannah in a prohibited district is not affected, because there was no attempt or intention to sell the salt within the prohibited district.

Mookerjee, J.—This case comes before us merely for an expression of our opinion as to the correctness or otherwise of the view of the law taken by the Sessions Judge of Tipperah in setting aside the conviction of the prisoners, and the release of the salt co .fiscated by the Deputy Magistrate under Section 16 of Act VII. of 1864, B. C. It appears from the finding of both the Courts below that the prisoners, with the two boats

of salt, were found within the boundary of the Noakhally District ; that, in order to pass through that district, it is requisite under the law to have a rowannah; and that the prisoners had none. The only question before us is whether such salt shall or shall not be considered contraband, and, therefore, confiscated to Government, and the persons in charge thereof held liable to punishment under Section 16 of the enactment in question.

Looking to the stringent provision of the law, Sections 15 and 16 of Act VII. of 1864, B. C., I am of opinion that, if salt exceeding 5 seers is found within the limits prescribed by Section 12, unprotected by a rowannah required under Sections 13 and 15, that salt must be held as contraband under Section 16 of Act VII. of 1864. Under Section 29 the Magistrate is empowered to examine into the cause of the seizure, and to adjudge the salt to be confiscated. I apprehend that, under this latter Section, a Magistrate is not legally competent to say that, though salt is found in a prohibited district unprotected by any rowannah, and therefore the offence under Section 16 is committed, that he cannot convict the persons found transporting the salt, or confiscate the salt, merely because there was no attempt or intention to sell the salt within that prohibited district. But the Magistrate, I think, is quite competent to decide whether the offence has been committed or not, and, therefore, to enquire into the cause of the seizure of the salt. If he be of opinion that the salt was not found as a fact within the prohibited district, he would be quite competent to acquit the prisoner, though the police-officer may maintain to the contrary.

In this case the Courts below found, as a fact, that the salt was within the limits of the district of Noakhally, where a rowannah is required for the transport of salt above five seers. The prisoners also admit that they passed through that district, and the direction of their master was to sell the salt wherever they could dispose the same to advantage. They do not deny that a rowannah was required to pass through Noakhally, but they plead that they were ignorant of the law, and had taken the route through Noakhally, because it was a highway, and was a shorter cut to Tipperah, where they intended ultimately to transport the salt, if the same could not be sold to advantage elsewhere.

The Judge on appeal reversed this order of the Magistrate—

1st.—Because it is not proved that there was any attempt to sell the salt at Noakhally.

2nd.—Because eight of them were boatmen, and therefore not responsible for the cargo.

3rd.—Because the river was a highway by water, and was a shorter route.

4th.—Because the boat was found within the very precinct of the prohibited district.

5th.—Because the proceedings of the Magistrate were injudicious and harsh.

Now, as regards the 1st, I have to observe that the law does not require any such attempt or intention to be proved before a conviction can be had under Section 16; the mere fact of the salt being found within the prohibited district is sufficient to constitute an offence. The law may be very severe and harsh, but that is no reason why Courts which are required to give effect to them should refuse to carry them out. We cannot assume the functions of the Legislature and make or amend laws merely because we think they are harsh and inequitable.

As regards the 2nd ground, Section 16 of the law provides that "any person possessing, or transporting, or attempting to transport such salt shall be liable to a fine, &c." The prisoners were, no doubt, transporting the salt, which is contraband; and I think, therefore, the Magistrate was right in convicting them under the above Section.

The 3rd ground appears to me to be no valid ground at all. If the prisoners had a desire to transport the salt by the shortest route, they ought to have applied for a rowannah, and then taken the salt by this route. They cannot of their own choice select a route which the Executive Government had thought fit, under the powers vested in it by the law, to prohibit a passage through, except under a rowannah.

With reference to the 4th objection, I do not see that it makes any difference whatsoever as to where the boats of salt were found, *i. e.*, whether at a short distance from the confines of the prohibited district or in the far interior of it. The prisoners, as I said before, admit that they have passed through the district of Noakhally.

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The 5th ground is a matter in which the dge might interfere if the law allows him do so on appeal, but is not *ipso facto* a ound to set aside the conviction at once.

Under these circumstances, and keeping in w the provisions and terms of the law, I n come to no other conclusion than that e Judge has taken a wrong view of it. e must have seen that the law gives him option to confiscate the salt or not, if the cumstances of the seizure are found to be actly those which are contemplated in ction 16, and the prisoners are found nsporting salt, which is contraband. Section 39 of this Act, however, gives a power the Board of Revenue to mitigate penals which the Magistrate may inflict under e previous Section, if they shall see cause do so. They may also direct the seizure any part thereof to be restored. We are t asked by the petitioners to pass any der affecting the release of the salt in this rticular instance, nor are we asked to erfere with the order passed by the Judge scharging the prisoners. We therefore do t interfere with the order passed by the dge in this case.

Jackson, J.—The charge is not pressed ainst the defendants, but we are asked to ate whether the Judge is right in the law hich he has laid down in this case. I ould point out to the Judge that the fact the salt being found within the particular istrict unprotected by the rowannah is made n offence under the law. The intention of e law is not only to punish those who are ctually smuggling salt, but also those who ve an opportunity to others to smuggle lt. Persons who trade in salt doubtlessly oroughly know the salt regulations. They now, as the prisoners in all probability new, that they were not allowed to take e salt into this prohibited district without a rowannah. They admit they were selling the salt when they could, and there was, of course, great opportunity for them to purchase smuggled salt in place of what they sold.

The 24th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Procedure—Evidence—Cross-examination—Witnesses for defence—Previous statements—Section 34, Act II. of 1855.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Tirhoot, in the case of Tukheya Rai versus *Tupsee Koer.*

Following the Queen *vs.* Gora Chand Gope, the Court set aside an order of acquittal passed by a Deputy Magistrate in a case which he tried, not on evidence taken before himself in the case, but entirely on evidence in another case before another Officer (the Joint Magistrate).

The complainant's pleader was at liberty before the Deputy Magistrate to cross-examine the witnesses for the defence on points respecting which they had made statements before the Joint Magistrate, and he might do so, as regards previous statements which were reduced to writing, without showing the writing.—Section 34, Act II. of 1855, explained.

Ainslie, J.—THIS case comes before us on a reference by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Tirhoot.

The facts are as follows:—

One Tupsee Koer charged Tukheya Rai with having rooted up certain crops belonging to him, and also with having inflicted a wound on his arm with a gondasa.

The Joint Magistrate dismissed the complaint. The accused then applied for leave to prosecute the complainant under Section 211 of the Penal Code, but this application was rejected.

Tukheya Rai then applied to the Sessions Judge, who thought that the charge under Section 211 ought to be investigated, and made an order accordingly.

The hearing of this charge was referred to the Deputy Magistrate, Mr. H. Davies. This officer eventually acquitted Tupsee Koer.

Tukheya Rai thereon again applied to the Judge, who has forwarded the proceedings with a view to getting the order of acquittal set aside, and the case remanded for a proper finding on the evidence.

The Sessions Judge cites the case of Gora Chand Gope, 5 Weekly Reporter, Criminal Rulings, page 45, as authority for the reference, and proceeds to show that the Deputy Magistrate has tried the charge before him wholly on the evidence recorded in the first trial before the Joint Magistrate, and without adverting in any way to the evidence taken before himself, which latter he excluded from consideration under a misconception of the purport of a passage in Mayne's Commentary on the Indian Penal Code set out in his judgment.

The Deputy Magistrate has submitted an explanation, in which he admits that he had misunderstood the quotation made by himself. He further states as follows: "I came to a conclusion in the case now referred with due regard to both cases. Much has not been said on this matter in my decision, because the additional evidence elicited by Mr. Lingham, pleader for prosecutor, was obtained by putting leading questions to Messrs. Boileau and Blechynden."

We entirely concur with the Sessions Judge in thinking that the Deputy Magistrate's judgment was based solely on the evidence recorded by the Joint Magistrate in the original trial. The Deputy Magistrate in opening his judgment, after a brief recital of the orders of the Joint Magistrate and Judge, says: "It now remains for the Court to determine from the evidence given in the case, out of which the present one arises, whether the charge is false or otherwise." He further on says: "The Court can only judge from the record before it, as it had not the advantage of seeing the witnesses delivering their testimony." He then reviews the evidence of each witness as recorded by the Joint Magistrate, and the only allusion in the judgment to the evidence recorded by himself is in the passage in which he gives reasons for excluding certain statements made by Messrs. Boileau and Blechynden before himself, which do not appear in their depositions before the Joint Magistrate.

There can be no doubt that this is a case to which the precedent cited by the Sessions Judge applies.

The Deputy Magistrate has not tried the charge before himself on the evidence in the case, but entirely on evidence in another case before another Magistrate. Such a trial is altogether informal, and must be quashed, together with the judgment recorded in it, and the case must be remanded for a proper trial and finding on the evidence on the record of this case.

We observe that the Deputy Magistrate was altogether wrong in refusing to allow the complainant's pleader in cross-examination to question the witnesses for the defence on points respecting which they had made statements before the Joint Magistrate. He was at liberty to examine on all the facts of the case, as much as if the matter had then been before the Court for the first time.

He was, moreover, at liberty to cross-examine the witnesses, as to previous statements made by them and reduced to writing, without showing the writing. Section 34. Act II. of 1855, does not say, as the Deputy Magistrate seems to think, that the writing must be shown before the cross-examination, but that, if it is intended to put in such writing to contradict a witness, his attention must be called to those parts which are to be used for the purpose of so contradicting him.

This is, not that he is to be allowed to study his former statement, and frame his answers accordingly, but that, if his answers have differed from his previous statements reduced to writing, and the contradiction is intended to be used as evidence in the case, the witness must be allowed an opportunity of explaining or reconciling his statements, if he can do so; and if this opportunity is not given to him, the contradictory writing cannot be placed on the record as evidence. We may also note that the proper way to exclude evidence obtained by leading questions is to disallow the questions.

We quash the judgment of the Deputy Magistrate of Tirhoot, dated 28th November 1870, and remand the case for re-trial and for a proper finding on such evidence as may now be, or may be brought, on the record of this case.

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The 25th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble H. V. Bayley, *Judge*.

Procedure—Trial by Assessors – Summing up—Treason — Waging war against the Queen—Evidence — Government Gazettes — Documentary evidence—Section 121, Penal Code—Sections 6, 8, and 28, Act II. of 1855—Section 200, Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Queen *versus* Ameeroddeen, *Appellant.*

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Dinagepore, on a charge of abetting the waging of war against the Queen, &c., &c.

Mr. J. Graham (Standing Counsel) and *Mr. Bell (Legal Remembrancer)* for the Government.

Mr Monomohun Ghose and *Baboo Amerendronath Chatterjee* for Appellant.

Although the Code of Criminal Procedure does not expressly provide for a summing up of the evidence in trials with the aid of assessors, there is nothing in the Code to prevent a Judge from summing up the evidence, which is, in fact, only a mode of going through and discussing it with the assessors.

The real object of appointing assessors is to assist the Court, and the discussion and statement of points by a Judge sitting with assessors cannot be said to be otherwise than in furtherance of the object of getting the best assistance for the proper adjudication of the case.

The special limitation of the period for prosecution (three years) in cases of treason and misprision of treason under Stat. 7 Wm. III., Cap. 3, Section 5, is an exception to the general rule in criminal cases; and in enacting Section 121 of the Indian Penal Code the Legislature has not thought fit to limit in any way the period within which a prosecution for an offence against that enactment may be commenced, and consequently such limitation does not form part of the Penal Code.

In a case in which the accused was charged with abetting the waging of war against the Queen under Section 121 of the Penal Code, it was held that the Calcutta Gazette and the Gazette of India were admissible in evidence, under Section 8 of Act II. of 1855, to prove the proclamation and official communications of the Government relating to the war.

A printed official letter from the Secretary of the Government of the Punjab to the Secretary of the Government of India was held to be admissible in evidence under Section 6, Act II of 1855.

Section 200 relates only to the oral evidence of witnesses. As to documentary evidence, although a prisoner has a right to have all or any part of any document used on his trial translated or interpreted to him, yet where a document is put in for the purpose of merely giving formal proof of that which is an incontestable fact, it is not necessary to interpret it at length. It would be sufficient if the prisoner was made to understand what the document was, and for what purpose it was used.

Quære.—Whether, with reference to the 28th Section of Act II of 1855, a prisoner charged with treason can be convicted on the evidence of a single witness?

Norman, C. J.—The prisoner has been convicted, by the Judge of Dinagepore concurring with the assessors, on charges, under Section 121 of the Indian Penal Code, of abetting the waging of war against the Queen, and sentenced to transportation for life and forfeiture of all his property. He has been found guilty on twelve charges. But for our present purpose it is sufficient to consider four only of these, to which, in fact, the others are subordinate.

The 6th, that he abetted the waging of war against the Queen, by engaging in a conspiracy with Ibrahim Mundle of Islampore, Abdullah of Patna, and others; and for the purpose of waging such war, and in pursuance of such conspiracy, at divers times and places instigated divers persons, *viz.*, Murtaza, Manoolla, Baboo Shaik, to the waging of such war, &c.

The 13th, that in or about the years 1862, 1863, 1864, 1866, and 1868, he abetted the waging of war against the Queen, by entering into a conspiracy with Ibrahim Mundle of Islampore, Abdullah of Patna, and others, for the purpose of waging such war, and in pursuance of such conspiracy at divers times procured divers persons, *viz.*, Shekee Mundle, Shareatoollah, Inayutoollah, Adalut Mundle, Salim Mundle, to contribute money in order to the waging of such war.

The 14th, that he, in or about the year 1865, at Kamlabaree, abetted the waging of war against the Queen, by entering into a conspiracy with Ibrahim Mundle of Islampore, Abdullah of Patna, and others, for the purpose of waging such war, and in pursuance of such conspiracy forwarding money to Ibrahim Mundle in order to the waging of such war.

The 15th, that he, in or about the year 1868, at or near Narainpoor, abetted the waging of war by entering into a conspiracy with Ibrahim Mundle of Islampore, Abdullah of Patna, and others, for the purpose of waging

such war, and in pursuance of such conspiracy collecting property for defraying the expenses of such war in order to the waging of such war, &c.

Mr. Monomohun Ghose, as Counsel for the prisoner, after making an objection to the validity of the conviction on the ground of alleged irregularity in the conduct of the trial, and contending that certain classes of evidence admitted by the Judge had been improperly received, went into a most elaborate and careful examination of the evidence, both oral and documentary, in detail.

The first point raised by him was that the trial was not conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, inasmuch as it appears that the Judge, at the conclusion of the reply of the Government prosecutor, and before calling upon the assessors to give their opinions, summed up the case to the assessors.

No statement as to the terms on which the Judge summed up appears on the record.

Mr. Ghose pointed out that while by Section 379, in trials by Jury, the Code requires the Judge to sum up the evidence, no such provision is made for the case of trials by the Court of Session with the aid of assessors. He referred to some observations of Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson in the Queen *versus* Poly, 2 W. R. 39, where this distinction is adverted to.

We may observe that although the Code of Criminal Procedure does not expressly provide for a summing up of the evidence in trials with the aid of assessors, there is nothing in the Code to prevent a Judge from summing up the evidence, which is, in fact, only a mode of going through and discussing it with the assessors. In a case like the present, where a prisoner was being tried on seventeen charges, where the evidence was very voluminous—fifty-five witnesses having been examined for the prosecution, and upwards of thirty for the defence—we think that a Judge sitting with assessors would have failed in his duty, or at least showed a want of sound discretion, if he had not indicated the matters necessary to be established by proof in order to convict the prisoner of the offence or offences charged. With full notes of the evidence and all the documents before him, we should have been surprised if we had found that the Judge had failed to assist the assessors by reminding them of the result of the evidence, and pointing out the bearing of the several parts of such evidence on the questions to be considered.

In cases of trial by Jury, the summing up is all-important, because there is no appeal from the decision of a Jury. In order to know what is the proposition which the Jury have affirmed—what it is that they have really decided in finding a verdict of guilty—it is generally necessary to look to the questions left to them by the Judge in summing up. And therefore, in order that it might appear whether the conviction is legal and proper, it was necessary in the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide that in trials by Jury a statement of the Judge's direction should form part of the record. A provision to that effect is contained in Section 379. In trials before a Judge sitting with assessors there is an appeal on the facts. The Appellate Court can examine the grounds of the finding of the Judge and assessors. It is therefore not necessary to preserve any record of the discussion between the Judge and the assessors. But because the Code is silent as to such discussion, it does not follow that nothing of the sort is to take place. Mr. Ghose urged that the object of appointing assessors was to assist the Judge—not for the Judge to assist, or by such assistance to influence, the assessors. But the real object of appointing assessors is to assist the Court, and the discussion and statement of points by a Judge sitting with assessors cannot be said to be otherwise than in furtherance of the object of getting the best assistance for the proper adjudication of the case.

Mr. Ghose next contended that as there is no record of the Judge's summing up to the assessors, the Court is not in a position to know how far the assessors may have been influenced by the Judge's observations; and that therefore less weight is to be attributed in this case than in ordinary cases to the fact that the assessors have concurred with the Judge in finding the prisoner guilty.

Mr. Ghose further contended that the assessors had given no reasons for their opinion. The last observation is not quite well-founded. The assessors do not merely find the prisoner guilty. The first assessor with whom the other concurs says: "He thinks it proved that a "war was waged against the Queen, that there "was a conspiracy to carry on that war, and "that the prisoner is guilty of all the acts "charged." It is clear, then, that the assessors knew what were the points which they had to consider, and there is nothing on the record to lead us to think that they did not form an independent judgment on the evidence.

Mr. Ghose next pointed out that all the acts with which the prisoner is charged took

place more than three years ago. He contended that by English Law, as embodied in Statute 7 Wm. III., Cap. 3, Section 5, no person can be indicted or prosecuted for treason unless within three years after the commission of the offence. He argued that this law had been introduced as part of the law of England, at least as regards persons liable to be tried in the High Court in its Original Criminal Jurisdiction by the Charters, and that, before the passing of the Penal Code, the English law of treason was applicable to offences committed against the sovereign by natives of India otherwise than within the limits of the Town of Calcutta; that, if this provision was in force at the time of the passing of the Penal Code, it has not been repealed by anything in that Code.

The answer to this argument is, that the offences with which the prisoner stands charged are not treason or misprision of treason, to which alone the provisions of the 7 Wm. III., Cap. 3, Section 5, are alone applicable, but offences against the Penal Code.

In taking upon itself the administration of criminal justice in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, the English Government, so far from abrogating the existing law of the land, and introducing English Criminal Law, undertook to administer the law as it stood, that is, the Mahomedan criminal law, subject to such modifications as might be found necessary. Accordingly, we find that crimes committed by natives of India against the State—as by levying war against the Crown and the like—outside the Town of Calcutta, were formerly punished, not as treason under English Law, but as offences against the law of the land, *i. e.*, Mahomedan Law, after taking the futwas of the Mahomedan Law-officers.—See the case of Meerza Beg, declared liable to *tazeer* at the discretion of the ruler of the country, and sentenced to death in 1799.—Harington's Analysis, Vol. I., pp. 336-340, note, Regulation IV. of 1799.

The special limitation of the period of prosecution in cases of treason and misprision of treason under Stat. 7 Wm. III., Cap. 3, Section 5, is an exception to the general rule in criminal cases. And in enacting Section 121 of the Indian Penal Code, the Legislature has not thought fit to limit in any way the period within which a prosecution for an offence against that enactment may be commenced, and consequently such limitation does not form part of the Penal Code, under which the prisoner has been convicted by the Sessions Judge and assessors.

Mr. Ghose next objected that the Calcutta Gazette of the 16th of June 1858, and the Gazette of India of the 30th of January 1864 and the 9th of November 1868, had been improperly received in evidence.

They are, however, clearly admissible in evidence, under Section 8 of Act II. of 1855, to prove the proclamation and official communications of the Government relating to the war on the frontier.

By Section 6 the Court is bound to take judicial notice of the commencement, continuation, and termination of hostilities between the British Crown and any other State, and is empowered to resort to appropriate books and documents of reference. It is to this end that the Exhibit D I, a printed official letter from the Secretary of the Government of the Punjab to the Secretary of the Government of India, also objected to by Mr. Ghose, is admissible in evidence. Of course, it is not evidence of the facts mentioned in detail by the writer of the letter. These several documents are evidence, and may be referred to under Section 6, Act II. of 1855, as to the commencement and continuation of the war between the Government and the Mahomedan fanatics on the frontier, at Mulka, Sittana, Umbeyla, and other places.

Mr. Ghose next objected that there had been an irregularity in the trial, because the Government Gazettes, and the letter of the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, were not read at length, and interpreted to the prisoner in open Court in a language understood by him, which, he contended, was required by the 200th Section of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Section 200 relates to the oral evidence of the witnesses. As to documentary evidence, we are of opinion that, although undoubtedly a prisoner has a right to have all or any part of any document used on his trial translated or interpreted to him, yet, put in as these Gazettes were, for the purpose of merely giving formal proof of that which was an incontestable fact, that the Government was issuing proclamations as to the war on the frontier, it would not be necessary to interpret them at length. It would be sufficient if the prisoner was made to understand what they were, and for what purpose they were used. To interpret them at length from beginning to end would have been a mere useless waste of time, and would have probably embarrassed the prisoner; because it would be difficult or almost impossible to make him understand that the detailed statements read to him were

not being used against him as proof of the several detailed facts stated therein. We have no reason to believe that the prisoner was not made fully aware of their nature and of the object with which they were put in, and it is stated in the proceedings that the prosecutor addressed the Court in Oordoo, a language understood by the prisoner.

Mr. Ghose next referred to the 28th Section of Act II. of 1855, and contended that, the prisoner being charged with treason, no offence charged against him could be proved by the evidence of a single witness. It is not necessary to discuss or determine what rule of evidence applies to trials for offences against the State under the Penal Code. Even if the Statute 7 Wm. III. or the earlier English law applied, which it certainly does not, the evidence we have to deal with is sufficient in quantity to satisfy the strictest rule.

Mr. Ghose next drew the attention of the Court to a letter said by the witness Abdoollah to have been written by him for Haji Deen Mahomed as a receipt for money forwarded by Peer Mahomed from Dinapore to Rawul Pindee. The original was not produced, but notice to produce it having been served on Peer Mahomed, a prisoner confined in the Monghyr Jail, its contents were proved by witnesses. The history of the letter is very singular.

Shaik Hingun says that he and one Buddoo Khan were partners in business from 1851 to 1861. There was a balance due to Buddoo Khan on the settlement of accounts, for which he sued Hingun, and got a decree for Rs. 6,000.

Buddoo Khan went into partnership with Mungloo. Mungloo, having a dispute with Buddoo Khan, wished Hingun to examine some papers in order that his share in some money due by certain parties should be defined. Amongst the papers Shaik Hingun says he found in an envelope a letter as follows :—

"From Bukshoolla Khan, 1st Regiment, 4 "Company Artillery, to Buddoo Khan, "Dinapore. After salaams, Haji Deen Ma- "homed writes to Peer Mahomed.

"I have arrived safely. Spent Rs. 100 "on the road. The two maunds of tobacco "which I have brought have been sent to "Goolshun. When news of its receipt reaches "me, I will inform you."

The witness says he knew of the Wahabee plot, and that the two maunds of tobacco mentioned in the letter signified Rs. 2,000. He says that Mungloo, Wajid, and Juggroo, were present; Buddoo Khan was sent for, and made aware of the discovery ; that he, Peer Mahomed, and others, endeavoured to induce the witness Hingun to give up the letter. Hingun, however, said to Buddoo Khan: "You "have got a decree against me for a false "claim, and I will have my revenge through "this letter at last." After some talk the witness agreed to give up the letter if the decree against him was cancelled. The arrangement was carried out, and the letter given over to Peer Mahomed.

It is a remarkable circumstance that this transaction must have taken place on or just before the 1st of March 1869. The prisoner now before the Court was arrested on the 10th of March in that year.

The letter is said to have been dated in the middle of 1867. So says the witness Abdoollah, who adds that he wrote the letter for Haji Deen Mahomed, who cannot write himself. This witness also says that two maunds of tobacco meant 2,000 rupees, and Goolshun meant Mulka, and that Bukshoolla was a feigned name for Haji Deen Mahomed. Looking at the circumstances under which, and the critical point of time when, the letter is said to have been found, and the use that was made of it, we should hesitate very much to accept it as a piece of evidence on which we could rely.

Very similar observations apply to a letter produced by Tofiloollah Shah to the police-officer, Elahi Buksh.

Tofiloollah is the son of a person who was formerly a *peer* or holy man at Sundeep Narainpore, the residence of the prisoner. In consequence of a disagreement with the prisoner's father and one Abdool Rohoman, a priest who resided in a mosque belonging to him, on the subject of jehad, the father of Tofiloollah with his family was driven out of the village, and the prisoner's brother seems to have got possession of some land which was formerly occupied by Tofiloollah or his father. About fifteen years ago the dispute upon the subject of jehad, and also on certain doctrinal or ceremonial points called "Ameen Ruffadeen" were renewed ; and again at the marriage of one Rohimooddeen, where Ameerooddeen was preaching jehad, Tofiloollah says he interfered with him, on which Ameerooddeen told him: "If you will side with us, I "will procure you the Rs. 300 a year which "your father always received from Narainpore." One of the witnesses, Inayutoollah, says

Tofiloollah answered that he would not consent if he got Rs. 1,000.

The letter was not produced by the witness until after an interview with Nobokisto Ghose, the Police Inspector, who asked him if he had any letters of the accused. The witness said he might have some if he searched. He professes to have found the letter in a box.

The letter begins by stating: "I have heard from many persons that you are opposed to the jehad!"

The language of the letter is such as could scarcely have been used by the prisoner to a person with whom he had so long been engaged in religious controversy on that amongst other points. The appearance of the letter is very unlike a document ten years old. The minute detail in which the witnesses speak to the exact terms of a paper which, according to their own statement, they heard read over when it was received by Tofiloollah ten years previously, is very unlike the impression which would remain on the memory after so long a lapse of time. The story of the witnesses agrees too exactly on the minute points. And the story of the black umbrella sent from the house of Goreeboollah, which is said to have accompanied the letter, is very like a circumstance got up to support a false tale.

We distrust the evidence as to the letter produced by Tofiloollah.

Our suspicions that this document may be a piece of evidence fabricated to insure the conviction of the prisoner are not weakened by finding that a letter, admittedly forged, purporting to be signed by the prisoner, implicating him as a Wahabee, was found by the police in the shop of Shaik Munsum, where it had been concealed either by or with the privity of one Inayutoollah, who had laid an information in March 1869 that treasonable papers were concealed in the shop of Shaik Munsum.

Mr. Ghose argued that the discredit thrown on the evidence for the prosecution by the falsity of this part of the case ought to lead us to disbelieve the rest of the evidence against the prisoner.

To that there are two answers. First, that though we distrust the evidence relating to the two letters very much—though we could not rely upon it, or accept it as true—it is not proved to be false. Secondly, the facts to which those letters relate are isolated, and stand quite apart from the general current of the evidence. Omitting, as we have, all further allusion to the evidence of the witnesses who speak to the letters, the general case against the prisoner stands untouched.

Suppose it be true that Tofiloollah concocted the letter produced by him to ruin a man whom he considers to be his enemy, there is no ground for supposing that other witnesses wholly unconnected with him are not speaking the truth.

The existence of the war on the frontier carried on by Mahomedan sectarians against the British Government is clearly proved. Witnesses whose credit Mr. Ghose has not attempted to impeach, Mahomed Israil, Yussuf Khan, and Saligram, prove that Wilayut Ali of Patna, Inayut Ali, the brother of Wilayut, and Moulvie Abdoollah, son of Wilayut Ali, Yahiya Ali, and others, whom it is not necessary that we should name, were successively leaders of these sectarians. Mahomed Israil says that all the leaders were in Patna, or Bengal or Behar—British subjects. He says that he was present at three battles between the fanatics and the British Government at Sittana in 1858, at Topee, Meanee in 1863, and at Umbeyla in 1863.

There is evidence that, after the death of Wilayut Ali, he was succeeded at Patna by Yahiya Ali as chief agent of the sectarians. Yahiya Ali has since been transported for life, convicted on a charge similar to the present.

It is proved by the evidence of one Elahi Buksh, Asmutoollah, and others, that Inayut Ali and Yahiya Ali preached jehad at Narainpore. It is proved by this Elahi Buksh that the prisoner was appointed khalifa by Inayut Ali at the musjid (mosque) at Narainpore, the native village of the prisoner, and that Atin Hossein and Abdoollah, who came from Patna, proclaimed the fact in the mosque.

The witness Asmutoollah proves that the prisoner was going about preaching jehad with Yahiya Ali, and that Yahiya Ali proclaimed in the Sirsahee mosque that he had appointed the prisoner to collect alms for the jehad.

Asmutoollah, who himself lives at Sirsahee, proves that the prisoner preached in the mosque at Sirsahee about six or seven years ago, and asked for funds for the jehad. He says he was persuaded by the preaching, and went to Ameerooddeen's house. He says that one Atar Hossein and his nephew from Patna were living at Ameerooddeen's house. They were there for the purpose of forward-

ing men and money; that he went to join a Kafila with Rungoo and Hughutoolla. His father sent three men who brought him back. The prisoner dissuaded him from going back. He says that after this the prisoner came three or four times to Sirsahee to collect money for the jehad.

The evidence of this witness seems given very fairly, and his credit has not been shaken in any way.

Mr. Ghose called him an accomplice, but he is scarcely that. He went with the intention of joining the rebels, but turned back.

The next witness to whose evidence we shall advert is Murtaza. He says that, about nine years before the time when he was giving his evidence, which was in August 1870, the prisoner came to his village, and preached concerning a jehad. The jehad was against infidels in general. The result was to be a conquest of all the world. The witness became the prisoner's pupil, and lived three months in his house at Narainpore. He says the prisoner persuaded him to join the jehad.

He says he was induced to join, and went with four others to Mulka in Khorasan (which means Affghanistan) about eight years ago. The expenses of the journey were supplied by the prisoner. They went by way of Rajmahal to Futwa about three coss from Patna, and thence by Rawul Pindee to Attock and Mulka. There he found about 1,500 men under the leadership of Moulvie Abdoollah. He says he was four or five months with the crescentaders (we adopt the word as used by the Judge below). While at Mulka, he heard there *had been* an attack on the British at Topee Meanee.

The witness says that at Mulka for the first time he was aware that the jehad was against the British.

Two witnesses, Jehangeer and Shumsheer, called from Peshawur, prove that Murtaza, who was known to them by the name of Abdool Rohoman, was at Peshawur at the time stated by him. Asgur Mundle, the uncle of Murtaza, proved that the prisoner came to his village to preach, and exhorted his hearers to give money for the war in the west against the infidels; that Murtaza and two others of his nephews went to the war. The other two have not returned. The father of Murtaza, Akbar Biswas, also corroborated his statement, and proved that the prisoner told him about a year after his son's departure that he was quite well and was in the west, and suggested to him to give some money for his "well-being." He says he gave the prisoner four or five rupees. A witness named Asmutoollah proved that Murtaza went away from his village about 8 years ago and was absent four or five years. Haroo proved that he was a fellow-pupil with Murtaza for a few days at the house of the prisoner.

Mr. Ghose's chief point as to the evidence of Murtaza was, that the offence was not shown to have taken place since the commencement of 1862, when the Penal Code came into operation. But, according to the evidence, Murtaza was only four or five months with the crescentaders, and while at Mulka he heard of the affair at Topee Meanee which took place in 1863. Murtaza seems to have come straight from the prisoner's house. This would make it probable that it could hardly have been much earlier than the middle of 1862, when Murtaza left the prisoner's house; and that Murtaza and the witnesses are right when they put his departure from that house about eight years before the trial, or in other words in the middle of 1862.

Mr. Ghose attempted to show that there were discrepancies in the evidence of these witnesses. But the evidence as regards Murtaza appears to us to be reliable.

Manoollah says the prisoner preached jehad at the mosque at Laghatta. He said the war was in the west against the infidels. Persuaded by the prisoner's preaching, he went with three others by Rajmahal to the house of Yahiya Ali at Patna, and thence to Mulka, where he saw about 1,000 men under Fyaz Ali and Moulvie Abdoollah. He says he saw Murtaza at Mulka. The witness does not pretend to say that the immediate cause of joining the rebels was the preaching of the prisoner.

Baboo Shaik proved that the prisoner preached jehad at Laghatta. He said that it was great merit to aid in a war against the infidels which was going on in the west. He says that with two other men he went to prisoner's house at Narainpore, and remained one night. The prisoner gave them three rupees as khorakee for daily food, and told them to go to the house of Moulvie Yahiya Ali at Patna. There they got twelve rupees to carry them on, and from there they went by way of Rawul Pindee to Mulka. The witness says he was there ten or twelve days, and then ran away.

Shariatoollah lives at Laghatta. He corroborates the story of the two last witnesses

by proving that they were away from the village—Manoollah for two years and a half, and Baboo Shaik for one year and a half—and that, when they came back, he heard them say they had been to the jehad in the west. The witness does not appear to be hostile to the prisoner; he says he never heard him preach jehad.

Salim gives similar evidence. Both witnesses speak to the prisoner's having preached at Laghatta.

Gholam Akbar proves that the prisoner preached, in the boitokhana of Mooteeoollah Moonshee, that it was meritorious to join the jehad against infidels in the west; that he had conversation with certain persons, and ultimately joined the jehad; that he went to Ibrahim Mundle's house at Islampore, and from thence to Mulka, where he saw Manoollah and Murtaza and others, whom he names. Witnesses are called to prove that he was absent from his house at the time when he says he was on the frontier.

Mahomed Hossein, desiring to go to the jehad, was sent to the house of the prisoner, who gave him money for his journey, exhorted him to be faithful, and sent him to the house of Ibrahim Mundle at Islampore. Ibrahim Mundle sent him on to Patna to the house of Yahiya Ali. He says Yahiya Ali preached every day about the jehad. The witness went on to Mulka, where he remained about a year. After the witness came back, he went with the prisoner to Bahla. He says the prisoner was preaching jehad at that time.

Atur Biswas proved that, while the prisoner was preaching in the Bahla mosque on the merits of a jehad in the west against the infidels, and that it was a sure road to paradise, a son of his ran away, and that he found him at the house of Ibrahim Mundle.

Shahadut Shaik and Shufoolla tell a story similar to that of Atur Biswas. The nephew of the one, Kureem Buksh, and the son of the other, were traced to Ibrahim Mundle's house at Islampore. These witnesses say nothing about the prisoner. The witness Shahadut Shaik says: "They told us Mahomed Hossein had taken them to go west."

Musloo corroborates the story of Mahomed Hossein by proving that he and Mahomed Hossein were fellow-students with Fuzli Ahmed Meah; that Mahomed Hossein spoke to him about a jehad; and that he went with Mahomed Hossein to the house of Ameeroodeen, but that his brother Ashloo came and fetched him away.

This evidence appears to us abundantly sufficient to justify the finding of the Judge and assessors that the prisoner is guilty on the 6th charge, *viz.*, that he abetted the waging of war against the Queen by engaging in a conspiracy with Ibrahim Mundle and others, and in pursuance of that conspiracy instigated Murtaza, Manoollah, and others to the waging of such war.

The next subject we propose to consider is the 13th charge, which relates to the collecting of money to forward the objects of the conspiracy.

Borkhoordar says that he was formerly a disciple of the prisoner; the prisoner told him there was a jehad in the west at Mulka, and that it was great merit to join in it, and to send food to the brethren who were fighting for it. The witness says that Sameeroodeen, a disciple of the prisoner, collected money at the mosque where the prisoner preached. He gave two and four annas at a time, and continued the payments for ten years. He gave the money specially for the jehad.

Shekee Mundle says the prisoner preached, urging people to give contributions for jehad; he gave him on one occasion eight annas, at another one rupee. Shareatoollah proves that he gave the prisoner 2 rupees 8 annas out of the *fitra* which he had collected from the villages for the jehad. Torah Biswas confirms the story of Shareatoollah. Ali Mahomed does the same.

In the evidence as printed it is made to appear that there is a discrepancy in the statements of these witnesses as to the time at which this money was given, and Mr. Ghose made a great point of this discrepancy. But, on referring to the original record of the Sessions Judge, it appears that the word which has been erroneously printed "evening" in the evidence of Shareatoollah should be "morning." And thus the supposed discrepancy disappears.

Inayutoollah proved that he gave money for the jehad, five pice a head for his family, up to the last three or four years. This money went to the prisoner.

Ibrahim Mundle, of Hanspookur, proved that the prisoner preached that it was meritorious to give money for the jehad; that he gave seven annas a year for many years up to about half a year ago.

Habool Moollah, a boatman, proved that the prisoner collected some dhan (grain) from the

villages for the jehad in the west, and hired his boat to take about 30 maunds, which had been collected, to his own village. Adalut and Nazir Mistree confirm this evidence.

Salim and Tenoo Mundle proved that the prisoner preached jehad, and said it was great merit to give for the war, which was against the English and the Nazarenes; but they gave nothing, as they had nothing to give.

Adalut Mundle proved that the prisoner Ibrahim Mundle and Habilas Mundle came to his house in a gharee in which were two bags of rupees, which they said had been collected at three mosques. Habilas in the presence of the prisoner urged the witness to become a sirdar for the collection of funds for the jehad. The prisoner asked the witness to lay aside a handful of rice after every meal, to sell it, and send the proceeds for the jehad. The evidence of this witness is confirmed by his servant Daor Shaik.

The evidence seems to us full and clear. The Judge and assessors could scarcely have come to any other conclusion than that at which they arrived, *viz.*, that the 13th and 15th charges were brought home to the prisoner.

The next witness to whose evidence I shall advert is that of Hazaree, who describes himself as having been a pupil of the prisoner five years ago, as having studied with him about eight or nine months, and during this time accompanied him to Bagharee, Kumlabaree, and other places. He says: "At Bagharee we stayed in the mosque of Shariatoollah Haji fifteen or sixteen days. The prisoner was preaching, and collecting money for jehad. He told me to take some money which he had collected to Ibrahim Mundle at Islampore. I and a fellow-student, Domun, took Rs. 600 to Ibrahim Mundle. I took 300, and Domun took 300. The prisoner gave me the 300 I was charged with. We delivered the money to Ibrahim Mundle. We returned next day, and went to the prisoner, who was at Hurreepore Chatra, from thence to Misreebooja Kharekpore, and stayed one day in Chand Sirdar's house. Then we came to Hanspookur, and stayed in a mosque. Then went to Badga, and stayed in Goomanee Mundle's house. Then we returned to Hanspookur. Then the prisoner told me he was going to Kumlabaree. I was to go to Misreebooja, and bring whatever money had been collected. I did so, and brought back Rs. 25, which I gave the prisoner at Kumlabaree in the house of Asalut Mundle. At Kumlabaree Rs. 10 were collected from Asalut Mundle, Elahee Buksh, and Gureeboollah. Then I was sent to Maldah to fetch one Goonee. I found him. A servant of Baboo Alum Shah and he came with me to Kumlabaree. He received Rs. 200 with instructions to take it to Ibrahim Mundle at Islampore, after which we went to the prisoner's house at Narainpore. I remained there half a month—then went home, because the prisoner wished me to go to the jehad, but I did not wish to do so. The money that Goonee Khan took was collected from different villages as contributions for the jehad."

The prisoner has apparently attempted to deny all knowledge of Hazaree. He called many witnesses, who, in answer to questions by him, said that they did not know any person of the name of Hazaree. One of these witnesses, Shokeadi Fakeer, said he knew Hazaree, that he was a respectable man, but that he had never seen him with the prisoner. There is, however, a good deal of evidence to corroborate the witness Hazaree's statement that he was a pupil of the prisoner, and was with him at the places mentioned by him. Hazaree must, no doubt, be treated as an accomplice, and there is very little to corroborate his evidence.

Elahee Buksh says he saw a bag said to contain 190 rupees, money collected for jehad, with Goonee Khan. This, he says, was in the house of Asalut Mundle. That a meeting between Goonee Khan, the prisoner, and others, said by Elahee Buksh and Hazaree to have been present, took place in the house of Asalut Mundle, is confirmed by the evidence of the prisoner's witness Zohoordi Mundle. That the prisoner and his disciples went to the house of Goomanee Mundle, appears from the evidence of the prisoner's witnesses Hajee Inayutoollah and Deanutoollah.

Chand Mundle, called as a witness by the prisoner, says he does not know Hazaree, and that he never gave him money. But upon one very material point he does not contradict Hazaree. He does not say that the prisoner did not preach in his mosque, though he does say that the prisoner did not preach jehad in the villages.

The evidence of Hazaree, that the prisoner did preach in Chand Mundle's mosque, is corroborated by Baboo Mundle.

Mr. Ghose pointed out that the witness Hazaree's evidence is in conflict with that of

hariatoollah Haji as to the time at which he prisoner stayed in the mosque of Shariatollah—Shariatoollah saying that the prisoner aly stayed there one night, while Hazaree ays: "We stayed there 15 or 16 days." The iscrepancy is certainly remarkable. But I annot say that the Judge and assessors would ot have been warranted in giving credence o the story of Hazaree. The proof that ollections were being made for jehad at the osques in different villages by and under he direction of the prisoner is abundant. he evidence of Hazaree is not the only irect proof that the prisoner was actively orwarding money for the jehad. There is hat of Adalut Mundle and his servant, Daor haik, to which I have already alluded.

The prisoner is shown to belong to a eculiar sect distinct from the great classes, oonnee and Sheah, to which the Mahomeans of this country chiefly belong—to be a eligious enthusiast, a zealot who goes round om village to village telling people to fast nd pray, not to commit evil, to abstain from uperstitious observances, such as offerings at he tombs of saints, to give alms, to go on ilgrimage, and to contribute, if but a handful f rice out of each meal, to the expenses of ar against infidels. It cannot be supposed hat a man of such character would be guilty f the dishonesty of habitually appropriating he collections so made to his own purposes. nless we are to assume that he was guilty of mbezzlement, the money collected must have een forwarded by the prisoner to the heads of he conspiracy.

I think, then, that it is impossible to say hat the Judge and assessors were not right in onvicting the prisoner on the 14th charge.

It is not necessary to go into the other harges, which are merely subordinate.

Great stress was laid by Mr. Ghose on the act of the animosity or supposed enmity rising out of religious differences of certain persons named Abbas Ali, Tofiloollah, Nusr-ul Huq, and Itwary.

But the evidence in the case shows graver motives than even the hot dispute on matters of ceremonial, such as "ameen," "ruffadeen," "burati khana," for the hostility which many of his neighbours may entertain towards the prisoner.

He is shown to have worked on the feelings of young boys of fifteen or sixteen, many of whom have been enticed away from their homes, and induced to join in the jehad. Some of these have been followed, and have been brought back by their parents. Of those who persevered, considerable numbers appear never to have returned, or been heard of again. These, no doubt, if not killed in battle, have either perished from exposure or disease, or fallen in conflicts with jealous or hostile tribes on the North-West Frontier.

The offences of which the prisoner has been convicted are punishable under the 121st Section of the Indian Penal Code with *death or with transportation for life*, with forfeiture of property. The sentence of transportation for life with forfeiture of property appears to us to be proper.

We reject the appeal.

The 25th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Appellate Court—Judgment—Additional evidence—Appeal—Sections 408, 419, and 422, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Dhunobur Ghose, *Petitioner*.

Mr. Munmohun Ghose and *Baboos Debendro Chunder Ghose* and *Grish Chunder Mookerjee* for the Petitioner.

Under Act VIII. of 1869, the Appellate Courts are limited to pronouncing judgment in the manner prescribed by Section 419.

Section 408 does not apply to the case of a person whose appeal has been dismissed after additional evidence has been taken under the provisions of Section 422, and no appeal lies from a judgment upon an appeal under Section 422, Act VIII. of 1869.

Norman, C.J.—We do not think it necessary to go through all the points taken by Mr. Ghose in this case; they have been disposed of in the course of the argument. The case appears to have been in many respects very well conducted by the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Cotton, who has shown

great tact and firmness in dealing with the objections taken before him, and we see no reason whatever for questioning the propriety of the sentence, which has been confirmed by the Sessions Judge.

The prisoner, Dhunobur Ghose, was convicted by Mr. Cotton, the Assistant Magistrate of Chooadangah, of criminal misappropriation, and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for two years and a fine of 300 rupees, and in default of payment of the fine to a further imprisonment for six months. An appeal was presented by the prisoner to the Judge of Nuddea. In consequence of certain defects in the evidence, the Judge directed that additional evidence should be taken upon particular points. Certain witnesses were examined before the Assistant Magistrate, the additional evidence was certified by him to the Appellate Court, and thereupon the Sessions Judge proceeded to dispose of the appeal in pursuance of Section 422, Act VIII. of 1869.

Mr. Ghose claimed a right on the part of the prisoner to appeal to this Court upon the facts, as if the prisoner had been convicted on a trial held by a Court of Session, and contended that such right was given to him by the provisions of Section 408. Under Section 422, Act XXV. of 1861, if the Appellate Court ordered additional evidence to be taken, and on the result of the further enquiry additional evidence being certified to the Appellate Court, it was competent to the Appellate Court to proceed to pass such judgment, sentence, or order as to such Court might seem right. A Full Bench of this Court held that, under the law as it stood before the passing of Act VIII. of 1869, the sentence of the Appellate Court hearing a case on fresh evidence under Section 422 was a *new sentence*, and not a mere modification of the sentence of the Lower Court; and that the Appellate Court hearing a case on additional evidence under Section 422 had power to enhance the punishment awarded by the Lower Court. In the case of Mohesh Chunder Chatterjee and others, reported in the 2nd Weekly Reporter, page 13, and in some other cases, it was held that, from that conviction and sentence, so treated by the Full Bench as a new conviction and sentence, an appeal lay under Section 408.

It appears to us that, whatever may have been the law under Section 422, Act XXV. of 1861, from a judgment upon an appeal under Section 422, Act VIII. of 1869, such appeal lies. Under Act VIII. of 1 the Appellate Courts are limited to pronou ing judgment in the manner prescribed Section 419. They may alter or rev the finding and sentence or order of inferior Courts, but not so as to enhance punishment that has been awarded. T prisoner whose appeal is dismissed, or whose appeal the finding and sentence the Lower Court is modified, is not a per convicted on a trial by a Court of Ses He is merely a person who has been c victed by the first Court, and whose ap has been disposed of by the Appellate Co

For these reasons it appears to us Section 408 does not apply to the case a person whose appeal has been dismis after additional evidence was taken un the provisions of Section 422.

The application to hear the case on app is refused.

The 25th February 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glov *Judges.*

Procedure—Accused—Witnesses—Cross-examination.

The Queen *versus* Ishan Dutt and other *Appellants.*

Committed by the Magistrate, and trid the Sessions Judge of Beerbhoom, on charge of voluntarily causing griev hurt.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Seal for Appellants

Having regard to Section 375 of the Code of Crimi Procedure, a Magistrate is bound to take steps to s cure the attendance of all the witnesses mentioned the accused in the list delivered to the Magistrate whom he was committed.

Per Kemp, J.—Where a witness called by one of parties is a competent witness, the opposite party ha right to cross-examine him, though the party cal him has declined to ask a single question.

Kemp, J.—I THINK it right to rema this case to the Sessions Judge with dir tions to insist upon the attendance of t witness Showdaminee Napitnee. It appe on the record that this woman was nam before the Magistrate by the prisoners as witness for their defence in the Sessi

h

Court. A summons was issued, but it appears from the return to that summons that the witness Showdaminee refused to accept service, and that she absconded. On this return the Magistrate passed a formal order "that it be kept with the record," and no further steps appear to have been taken by him to enforce the attendance of this witness. At the trial before the Sessions Court the prisoners through their pleader demanded as a right to have this witness summoned. I think that they were entitled to do so under Section 375 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which enacts "that an accused person shall not be entitled of right to have any other witnesses summoned than the witnesses named in the list delivered to the Magistrate by whom he was committed." Now, it is clear that in this case this witness was named in the list delivered to the Magistrate by the accused; and therefore the prisoners, as a right, were entitled to have her examined. Moreover, she appears to be a material witness. We cannot dispose of the case satisfactorily without her evidence being taken. The case is therefore remanded for the purpose of enforcing the attendance of Showdaminee, and taking her evidence. After taking her evidence, the Judge will call upon the prisoners for their defence, take a fresh opinion from the assessors, and pass a fresh decision.

The next point taken by the pleader for the prisoners is, that the Judge is wrong in not having permitted the pleader for the prisoners to cross-examine the witness Kedarnath Mitter, Sub-Assistant Surgeon of Rampore Haut. The Judge says in his judgment that "the prisoners' pleader wished to cross-examine this witness as to the result of any conversation he might have had with his patient, but that the Court demurred to this, as the witness was only examined-in-chief as to his professional examination and treatment of the wounds." "Any examination," the Judge observes, "of this witness as to the facts of the case could only be carried on by the prisoners' pleader on the witness being called as a witness for the defence, and not in cross-examination of his evidence given as a medical man on behalf of the prosecution." The pleader for the prisoners in support of his contention has called our attention to several passages of Taylor on Evidence. It appears from that authority that in America a party has no right to cross-examine any witness, except as to circumstances connected with matters stated in his direct examination; and that, if he wishes to examine him respecting other matters, he must do so by making him his own witness, and by calling him as such in the subsequent progress of the cause. Now, in this case, the Sub-Assistant Surgeon stated circumstances in his direct examination which were connected solely with the injuries inflicted upon the witness Bacharam, and the points upon which the pleader for the prisoners wished to examine the said witness Kedarnath are not connected with any circumstances stated in the direct examination of the witness; and, therefore, if we were to apply the rule which obtains in America, the prisoners would have to make Kedarnath Mitter their own witness by calling him for the defence, and then examining him respecting other matters than those connected with the circumstances stated in his direct examination; but there is another passage to be found in page 1155 of the same work, which lays down that, if a witness called by one of the parties is a competent witness, the opposite party has, in strictness, a right to cross-examine him, though the party calling him has declined to ask a single question. I think that in this case, as the witness Kedarnath Mitter was a competent witness, and as he was called by the prosecution, although he was questioned by the prosecution only as to such matters as came within his professional knowledge, and he refers only to his professional examination of the wounds inflicted upon Bacharam and to their treatment, the Judge ought to have allowed the pleader for the prisoners to cross-examine that witness without making him a witness for the defence. We therefore direct that, on the re-trial of the case which we have ordered with reference to the evidence of the witness Showdaminee, he will recall the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, and permit the pleader for the prisoners, or the accused themselves if no pleader should appear on their behalf, to cross-examine this witness.

Glover, J.—I entirely concur in sending back this case. The prisoners did all they were bound to do in summoning their witnesses, and if one of the most important of them evaded summons, as it appears from the Nazir's return that she did, it was the Magistrate's duty to have taken all the measures required by the Procedure Code to enforce that witness's attendance. The prisoners were in jail at the time, and are not to be supposed to have known of the return, and could not therefore have applied to the Court sooner than they did. I think that Showdaminee's evidence should be taken, and that the Sessions Judge should

pass a fresh decision in the case after regarding the evidence.

As to the other point raised, namely, the right of the prisoners to cross-examine the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, I have some doubts as to the correctness of the objection. As, however, Mr. Justice Kemp thinks that the Sub-Assistant Surgeon might have been so cross-examined, I do not desire to object to the case being remanded on this point also.

The 4th March 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction — Magistrate of the District—Obstruction—Section 308, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Sessions Judge of Dinagepore, in the case of Grish Chunder Chuckravaty.

The Magistrate of a district can alone hold proceedings in a case (such as the removal of a thatched house) under Section 308 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The Joint Magistrate, while in charge of the Magistrate's office, has no such jurisdiction.

Reference.—On the 16th January 1871 a notice was issued on the petitioner by the Joint Magistrate, Mr. E. V. Westmacott, ordering him to remove a certain thatched house on his premises within ten days, on the ground that it was likely to occasion conflagration. The notice was served on the 26th idem.

Upon receipt of this notice, the petitioner applied to the Magistrate, Mr. J. H. Ravenshaw, on 3rd February, showing cause against the removal of the house in question, and applying for a Jury to try whether the order was reasonable and proper. This petition was presented to the Joint Magistrate who was in charge of the Magistrate's office, the latter being absent on tour. On 6th February the Joint Magistrate passed the following order: "The applicant is a "member of the Municipal Committee, and "it is for the Magistrate to decide whether "it is fitting that an exception should be "made in his favor by allowing him to put "up a thatched house." This was endorsed by the Magistrate in these terms: "I have "no power to interfere against the Joint "Magistrate's order. It was passed while "he was in charge of this office. Moreover, "I have been to the spot, and considering "the applicant is a member of the Committee, I think his objection is a very bad "example."

I am of opinion these orders do not meet the requirements of the law, and should be quashed, as they are not in conformity with the directions of Section 308, Code of Criminal Procedure, under which these proceedings have manifestly been conducted, although there is nothing in the proceedings themselves specifying the authority under which the order was issued on the petitioner.

The conservancy-powers of a Magistrate as defined in Schedule K, Act VI. of 1868 do not appear to embrace such a case as the present; and I think it is clear he could not require the petitioner to remove a building on any other grounds than those specified therein, and therefore, if the order is justified by any law, it must be under Section 308, Code of Criminal Procedure, under which the case seems clearly to fall.

I consider the procedure adopted bad, because, in the first place, it is only the Magistrate of a district or of a division of a district that can issue such an order as was served on the petitioner. The mere fact of Mr. E. V. Westmacott being in charge of the Magistrate's office does not, I think, invest him with this power.

With reference to the cause shown by the petitioner against the removal of the house, no consideration has been paid to the grounds on which it was urged. Both the orders of the Joint Magistrate and the Magistrate appear to me quite irrelevant to the matter, and as the petitioner applied for a Jury, the Magistrate was bound, I conceive, to appoint one to try the question at issue.

Judgment of the High Court.

Mitter, J.—We concur with the Judge in thinking that the proceedings of the Joint Magistrate in charge of the Magistrate's office are illegal. The Magistrate alone in this instance could hold those proceedings, and the applicant was clearly entitled to have the matter settled by a Jury. We quash the proceedings of the Joint Magistrate as illegal.

The 8th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jury—Summing up—Approver's evidence—Corroboration—Evidence for defence—Evidence to character.

Committed by the Deputy Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Dacca, on the charges of dacoity and abetment of dacoity.

The Queen *versus* Mohima Chunder Dass and others, *Appellants.*

Mr. Munmohun Ghose and *Baboos Nullit Chunder Sein, Hurry Mohun Chuckerbutty,* and *Tarakant Chuckerbutty* for Mohima Chunder Dass.

Baboo Jogendro Nath Bose for Nagur Banshee.

Baboo Juggadanund Mookerjee for the Government.

Where a Sessions Judge, in his charge to the Jury in a case in which an approver-accomplice gave his evidence, drew the attention of the Jury to the necessity for requiring corroboration to the approver's evidence before they could convict upon it, and the Jury, notwithstanding his charge, convicted upon the uncorroborated evidence of the accomplice, it was held, following a Full Bench case cited, that the High Court could not interfere with such conviction.

Where a Sessions Judge omitted in his charge to the Jury to comment on different parts of the evidence for the defence, to which he simply alluded as being unimportant, and allowed evidence as to character and hearsay evidence to go to the Jury, the High Court acquitted the prisoner, the other evidence in the case being insufficient for conviction.

Evidence as to character ought not to be laid before a Jury, but should only be taken and considered by the Sessions Judge in awarding punishment.

Jackson, J.—These prisoners have been convicted of several dacoities upon boats which took place on the river Pudda about the 14th or 15th Assar of last year, and have been sentenced to different terms of imprisonment. The trial was held by the Sessions Judge of Dacca with a Jury, who were unanimous in finding a verdict of guilty. The prisoners have appealed to this Court. Mr. Ghose appeared on behalf of Mohima Chunder Dass, and a Vakeel of this Court for Nagur Banshee. The remaining prisoners were unrepresented.

The verdict of the Jury is final on all questions of fact, and the only question for consideration is whether there is legally sufficient evidence to support the conviction, or whether there has been such illegality in the proceedings in the course of the trial as requires this Court to annul the conviction.

As regards some of the prisoners, there is ample evidence, and there can be no doubt in the mind of any reasonable person of their guilt. The fact of the occurrence of the dacoities is clearly proved. They were reported to the police immediately after their occurrence. There is some evidence that the prisoners were at the time associated together, being dependants and servants of the prisoner Mohima Chunder Dass; though, upon this point, the witnesses should have been required to give more distinct and exact information. An approver-witness, Gobind Sircar, has given a detailed account of the manner in which the prisoners assembled and went about in a boat from place to place committing these dacoities at night. There is corroboration of his evidence as regards several of the prisoners. There is evidence that, previous to the dacoities on two boats, which were tied to the bank near each other, the prisoners Afazooddeen and Kalai went on board one of the boats on the pretence of asking for fire. They were, therefore, together on the spot about the time when the dacoities took place. There is further evidence that, the day after the dacoity, the prisoners Afazooddeen, Panchoo Hajam, and Ibrahim, were seen together in a boat; were observed, on being hailed, to throw money into the river; that, when the attention of chowkeedars was turned to them, and attempts were made to arrest them, Afazooddeen and Panchoo Hajam jumped into the river, and swam to the other side; that Afazooddeen, when seized, admitted that he had thrown into the river money which he had obtained in the dacoity, and offered to dive for it and pick it up. The evidence of the approver is further confirmed by the admissions made by the prisoners Ibrahim, Kolai, Panchoo Hajam, Mohesh Hajaree, and Nagur Banshee, not only before the police when they each gave up a share of the money which each had obtained in the dacoity, but also before the Deputy Magistrate before whom they were taken. It is also confirmed by the discovery of a cloth in the house of Afazooddeen, which was proved to be a portion of the property stolen in one of the dacoities. As regards all these prisoners, there is therefore ample

evidence that they were engaged in the dacoity. As against the prisoners Mohima Chunder Dass, Gooroo Churn, and Dhonai, the evidence is not so clear as against the two latter. There is not that corroboration of the approver's evidence which it is the rule to require; and, though there is some corroboration as against Mohima Chunder Dass, it is not of a very distinct and certain character.

The first point which Mr. Ghose argued on behalf of Mohima Chunder Dass, but which, in fact, affects also the cases of Gooroo Churn and Dhonai, is that the Sessions Judge did not place sufficiently strongly before the Jury the necessity for requiring corroboration to an approver's evidence before convicting upon it. The Sessions Judge stated the law to the Jury in the following terms: "There can be no doubt that, in a "case like the present, the evidence of a "pardoned accomplice requires corroboration before it can suffice to sustain a conviction. But the prosecution maintains that "this corroboration exists in the evidence "of many other witnesses as to the acts and "circumstances related by them." The Sessions Judge details these facts, and then adds: "I do not think that corroboration "of the approver's evidence, where he "speaks of wholly innocent and legal acts, "relieves the prosecution of the *necessity* "of producing something corroborative of "the statement made by him as to the "dacoities on Kurhaie's and Dhopai's boats. "I think that the approver's evidence respecting the transactions should be corroborated by something connected with those "particular transactions." The Sessions Judge then points out against which of the prisoners there is corroboration, leaving out, however, one important item of the evidence; and he adds that there is some reason to doubt the whole truth of the approver's story on account of its strangeness, and finally he concludes: "You should consider "very carefully the evidence given by Gobind approver before accepting it as conclusive of the guilt of any of the prisoners." I think that in these remarks to the Jury the Sessions Judge did distinctly point out to them that they ought to require corroboration to the approver's evidence before they convicted upon it, and that that corroboration should be upon some point relating to the dacoities, and not to other facts which were innocent and legal. This latter remark specially alluded to Mohima Chunder Dass, because the prosecution had adduced evidence to prove that, about the time when the dacoities took place, the prisoner Mohima Chunder Dass was with the approver Gobind Sircar and other persons going about in a boat on the river collecting rents from his villages, and stopping at Bohor on his way to Dacca. Mr. Ghose argued that the Sessions Judge should have pointed out to the Jury that they could not convict without further corroboration. I think that he performed his duty in telling them that they ought not to convict without sufficient corroboration, and therefore upon this ground I should not have interfered with the conviction of the prisoners. The law upon the subject has been clearly laid down in the case of Elahi Buksh, W. R., Vol. 5, page 81. It was there ruled, first, "that a conviction may be legally had on uncorroborated evidence of one or more accomplices;" secondly, "that it is necessary that the evidence of accomplices should not be left to the Jury without such directions and observations from the Judge as the circumstances of the case may require."

Mr. Ghose pointed to the illustrations of the law given in pages 87 and 88 of the Report, and contended that the Sessions Judge had acted against the rules there laid down. But the Sessions Judge in this case did not tell the Jury that the evidence of the approver alone was sufficient to justify them in finding the prisoners guilty. He did advise them not to convict upon the uncorroborated evidence of a pardoned accomplice. He did not tell them that the uncorroborated evidence of an accomplice given under a tender of pardon was admissible, and that it was for them alone to form an opinion upon it; that a conviction founded upon such evidence would be legal; and that such evidence, without corroboration, might be acted upon with as much safety as that of any other accomplice. On the contrary, the Sessions Judge distinctly pointed out to the Jury the necessity for corroboration and the necessity that that corroboration should be upon circumstances implicating the prisoners in the crimes charged upon them. The Sessions Judge then clearly performed his duty. If the Jury, notwithstanding his charge, convict upon the uncorroborated evidence of an accomplice, this Court cannot, upon the view of the law laid down in the Full Bench decision referred to, interfere with that conviction. Such convictions have been held to be legal even in England, where the Jury system has been long in force. They are not illegal here.

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But Mr. Ghose on behalf of the prisoner Mohima Chunder Dass has taken further objections to the summing up of the Sessions Judge as against his client. First, he urges that the different portions of the evidence which affected his client were not distinctly stated to the Jury and observations made upon those portions of the evidence. Secondly, he points out that evidence of an inadmissible character, such as that his client was a notorious dacoit, and hearsay evidence was allowed by the Sessions Judge to be given, and no remark was made by the Sessions Judge that this should not be allowed to have any weight in the decision of the Jury. Thirdly, that the Sessions Judge omitted to point out to the Jury the evidence of the prisoner's witnesses, and passed them over with the remark that that evidence was not important, whereas it was of the most vital importance to the prisoner, proving as it did, if believed, that the prisoner could not have been present, as alleged by the approver, at the dacoities with which he was charged.

It seems to us that the evidence, as given in the trial and the summing up of the Sessions Judge, is open to these remarks. The Sessions Judge did allude to the evidence for the defence, and did pass it over with the remark that it was of no importance. The evidence was the more important, because, although several of the dacoits, when first arrested and taken before the Deputy Magistrate, confessed their guilt, and named the accomplices, they distinctly stated that the prisoner Mohima Chunder Dass had gone with them to Dacca, and had left the boat there, and remained at Dacca, and that the dacoities were committed after he had left the boat, and on their return from Dacca. It is not as if they had merely left out his name, or as if they wished to screen him, as their master, from all implication in the dacoities, because they not only mention his name, but some of them state that a portion of the plunder was set apart to be made over to him. Still their statements are that he was not present at the dacoities, and so far they confirm the fact that the prisoner was at Dacca at the time the dacoities were committed. The approver Gobind Sircar is the sole individual among the dacoits who alleges that Mohima Chunder Dass was present, and took part in the dacoities. The Sessions Judge should have pointed out all these facts to the Jury, and their bearing upon the evidence for the defence. Again, the Sessions Judge should not have allowed the witness Lokenath, head-constable, to give hearsay evidence and evidence to character. He says that, on the report of the dacoity, he proceeded to the spot, and there he "learned that Mohima, Gooroochurn (who used to be one of a noted gang of dacoits), Dhonai Khan, and Panchoo Hajam, had gone out together in a boat on the day before the night of the dacoity;" that he went next morning to the house of Gooroochurn, and was informed that he had gone with Mohima Chunder to Dacca, and at Komerpore he was informed that Afazooddeen and Kalaf had gone with Mohima;" and, lastly, that he knew well that Mohima was a budmash himself, and that he had taken Gooroochurn, who is a notorious dacoit, to be a ryot close to his own house. Section 57, Act II. of 1855, enacts that the improper admission of evidence shall not of itself be ground for a new trial in any case, if it shall appear to the Court before which such objection is raised that, independently of the evidence objected to and admitted, there was sufficient evidence to justify the decision. Had the Sessions Judge, in his summing up, pointed out that this was not proper evidence, and that the Jury, in coming to their verdict, must shut it out from their minds, its admission alone might have formed no ground for a new trial. But the absence of any such remarks, coupled with its improper admission, is very likely to have prejudiced the prisoner in the minds of the Jury. Coupling this with the fact that the Sessions Judge told the Jury that the evidence of the witnesses for the defence was of no importance, whereas that evidence was to some extent corroborated by other facts proved upon the trial, we are of opinion that the conviction of the prisoner upon this trial cannot stand.

Mr. Ghose has asked us to acquit the prisoner. The mode in which this Court should act upon appeal in cases of this description is laid down in the case of Elahi Buksh above alluded to. It was ruled that "this Court may in all cases in which a finding of guilty is set aside upon appeal, if it considers it necessary, order a new trial. But if the Court is satisfied that the evidence is wholly insufficient to support any conviction against the prisoner, and would, upon the same evidence, have reversed a conviction if the case had been tried without the intervention of a Jury, there is no necessity, and it would be improper, to grant a new trial. In such a case, the Court, having set aside the verdict,

may order the prisoner to be discharged." Now, it seems to me that, upon the evidence on the record, the conviction of Mohima Chunder Dass could not be confirmed if there was an appeal before us on the facts. Independent of the corroboration to his defence which has been above alluded to, there is no trustworthy corroboration to the evidence of the approver. The evidence as to his presence with the approver when collecting rents the day after the dacoities took place is supported by a pretended receipt for rent which is produced. The Judge seems to have placed no reliance upon the evidence on this point. He does not allude to it in his summing up. If true, it contradicts the prisoner's *alibi*, and so far is very important. But we are satisfied that no reliance can be placed upon it. It is very probable that Gobind Sircar went and gave the receipts which are ascribed to him, but the receipt in the handwriting of the prisoner Mohima is evidently a made-up document, and no inference can be drawn from it. We think then that we ought not to direct a new trial in the case of this prisoner, but should order his discharge.

The cases of Gooroochurn and Dhonai are different. They have not attempted any defence. The account of their presence at the dacoities charged has been from first to last the same, and there is no reason to doubt their having been present, and having taken part in the dacoities charged. Although, as regards Gooroochurn, evidence has been admitted which should not have been allowed, still there can be no doubt of his guilt.

We dismiss the appeal of all the prisoners except Mohima Chunder Dass, and we direct his discharge.

The Sessions Judge is requested to point out to the Deputy Magistrate, before whom these prisoners came in the first instance, and who recorded their admissions, that the record of the examination shows that such examination was, if properly conducted, not properly taken down. The questions put should have been recorded, as well as the answers; and a proper certificate appended to each examination. The utter disregard of the provisions of the law upon this point, and as to the attestation of examinations evinced by some of the Deputy Magistrates in the Dacca District, is deserving of severe censure. This is not the first time we have been obliged to notice it. The result of the carelessness of the authorities on this subject is, that the confessions are open to question as evidence in consequence of the illegal manner in which they are recorded. The provisions of the law, being distinct, should be distinctly carried out.

Mookerjee, J.—I am of the same opinion. I think also that the Sessions Judge has properly warned the Jury, and brought to their notice the fact that the approver Gobind was an accomplice-witness deposing under an offer of pardon. The Sessions Judge has, therefore, acted according to the directions laid down in the case of Elahi Buksh; but I quite concur with my learned colleague in holding that the Sessions Judge should have put the evidence for the defence properly before the Jury, instead of saying that that evidence is not important. He was wrong in laying before them evidence to the character of the accused. The Jury might have been in all probability prejudiced against the prisoners. Evidence to character should be only taken and considered by the Sessions Judge, and should influence him in awarding punishment. If the accused are persons of notorious bad character, the Sessions Judge, in passing sentence, should see what punishment is adequate and sufficient. That evidence should not be laid before a Jury. If the conviction had been had by the assistance of assessors, I would have had no hesitation in discharging the prisoner Mohima Chunder. Under the circumstances of this case, I see no reason to direct a new trial of the prisoner Mohima. I would direct his release. As regards the other prisoners, I quite agree with Mr. Justice Elphinstone Jackson in upholding the conviction and sentence.

The 11th March 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief ustice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

risdiction—Obstructions—Section 308, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punchanun Bose and another, *Petitioners*.

aboos Kalee Mohun Dass and *Ramanath Bose* for Petitioners.

Proceedings under Section 308 of the Code of Crimi- Procedure for the removal of obstructions may be ginated by a Joint Magistrate in charge of a division a district.

Norman, C. J.—It appears to us that there no ground for interfering with the order of r. Quinn, the Joint Magistrate of Jessore, this case.

The proceedings were originated by Mr. uinn under the 308th Section of Act VIII. 1869, and it seems to me that the papers ould probably not have been sent for if it d been brought to the notice of the Court at the Joint Magistrate, Mr. Quinn, was the agistrate "in charge of the Sudder Division Jessore."

The facts are briefly these :—

It appears that a fisherman, Chytunno aloo, complaining that the defendants had bstructed a road leading from the Khoolna ad to the bank of the Bhyrub river at a lace called Kalliaghaut, an enquiry was rected to be held by the police ; and on its ppearing that a right of way over this tract d always been enjoyed by the public, the oint Magistrate made over the case to a Subor- inate Magistrate of the first grade *to be dealt ith under Section 320.* The Subordinate agistrate, Baboo Doorga Dass Chowdhry, made an enquiry, and found that the way was a public thoroughfare, that it had been obstructed by the defendants' digging ditches across it; and he directed the defendants to remove the obstruction, or to appear before him to show cause why such order should not be enforced.

This order was quashed by the Judge on appeal on the ground that the Subordinate Magistrate had no power to originate a proceeding under Section 308, and that proceedings under that Section could only be originated by a Magistrate of a district or *by a Magistrate in charge of a division of a district.*

The Judge, therefore, on the appeal of the defendants, ordered that the Joint Magistrate should call up the case to his own file in order that he might deal with the complaint under Section 308.

Upon this the Magistrate, whose proceedings are headed as under Section 308, on the 21st of November 1870 directed notice to be served on the defendants, stating that a petition had been filed complaining that defendants had obstructed a road leading from the petitioner's house (and used by the public) to the river, and directing the defendants to remove the obstruction within ten days; or, if the defendants had any objection, that they should file such objection before the 2nd of December.

The defendants appeared before the Joint Magistrate, and evidence was gone into at great length; the result of which was that the Joint Magistrate found, on the evidence before him, and by personal inspection, that the road was a public road; in fact, a continuation of the road crossing the Khoolna road at right angles, and called the Dossâdee road, enclosed by fences and ditches at the sides leading to the river; and that such road had been obstructed by the defendants' digging ditches in various places. The Joint Magistrate ordered that the defendants should remove the obstruction from the road described in his proceeding of the 21st November.

It appears to me that the Joint Magistrate's proceedings were regular throughout, and that there is no ground whatever for quashing his order, which was passed in regular course.

It has been objected by Baboo Kalee Mohun Dass that the Joint Magistrate, in issuing the order of the 21st November, did so without having proper materials before him for taking proceedings upon the footing that the road was apparently a public road. But that contention is not well-founded. The Joint Magistrate had before him the petition which had been presented to him by Chytunno Maloo. On that petition, under his direction, an enquiry had taken place before the Deputy Magistrate under Section 320 in the presence of both parties, in the course of which enquiry it was made to appear to the Deputy Magistrate, who had jurisdiction in the matter, that the road was a public road. The evidence taken in that enquiry and the finding of the Deputy Magistrate were before the Joint Magistrate.

If the order of the Joint Magistrate had been drawn up in this wise—on reading the petition of the petitioner, and the evidence of the witnesses A, B, and C (taken before the Deputy Magistrate), and the finding of the Deputy Magistrate, it is ordered that the obstruction be removed, or if the defendant have cause to show against this order, let him do so within ten days—it would have been an order such as this Court is in the habit of making in the usual course, and this Court would proceed on such materials as these without the slightest hesitation.

We see no ground for questioning the legality of the Joint Magistrate's proceedings in this case, and we therefore reject the application to quash his order.

The 18th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson, *Judge.*

Procedure—Accused—Plea.

The Queen *versus* Roopa Gowalla, *Appellant.*

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Patna, on a charge of murder in dacoity.

An accused should *plead* by his own mouth, and not through his counsel or pleader, though his counsel or pleader may, at the proper time, address the Court on his behalf.

THE prisoner appeals on matters of fact alone, which, as he was tried with a Jury, the law does not allow.

The appeal is rejected.

I observe that the accused is said to have pleaded not guilty "through his pleader," which is not in conformity with law.

The accused should *plead* by his own mouth, though of course his counsel or pleader may, at the proper time, address the Court on his behalf.

The 18th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Breach of the peace—Land-disputes—Police-report—Evidence—Section 318, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Rajshahye.

Obhoy Chowdhry, 1st party, and Mr. Thomas Brae, 2nd party.

Baboo Mohiny Mohun Roy for the 1st party.

Mr. J. S. Rochfort for the 2nd party.

In a proceeding under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the finding of the Magistrate that he believes that a dispute exists likely to induce a breach of the peace must depend upon *legal* evidence in the case which he is investigating. A police-report is *per se* no legal evidence in such a case.

Bayley, J.—WE think that in this case the order of the Magistrate is illegal, and must be set aside. His proceedings should be guided by the judgment reported at page 76, Vol. III, Bengal Law Reports,* in which the other

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* The 22nd September 1869.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman and the Hon'ble F. B. Kemp, *Judges.*

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Magistrate of Mymensingh.

Kashee Kishore Roy and another, 1st party,

versus

Tarinee Kant Lahoree, 2nd party.

Baboos Sreenath Doss and *Romesh Chunder Mitter* for the 1st party.

Baboos Nullit Chunder Sein and *Hem Chunder Banerjee* for the 2nd party.

Norman, J.—This is a proceeding by the Deputy Magistrate of Jumalpore, in Mymensingh, by which one Tarinee Kant Lahoree has been maintained by the Deputy Magistrate in possession of some disputed land under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. This case has been sent up to this Court under Section 434, Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Magistrate, Mr. O'Kinealy.

Several objections are taken to the regularity of the Deputy Magistrate's proceedings. But there is one, and that the first, which is fatal, showing that the Deputy Magistrate proceeded without jurisdiction, and that his order cannot be sustained.

It appears that, in consequence of some petition presented prior to April last, an order was issued to the police to proceed to the mofussil, and make some enqui-

udgments of this Court on this point have een reviewed, and where the decision of the Officiating Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Kemp has been very clearly recorded in the ollowing terms: "We are of opinion that "there is a clear reason for requiring a dis-"tinct *adjudication* as to the existence of "a dispute likely to occasion a breach of the "peace, before the Magistrate proceeds fur-"ther." Now, the term 'adjudication' in the above passage means a finding on legal evidence. The finding of the Magistrate in this case is only on a police-report, which Mr. Rochfort for the opposite party very properly admits, and which *per se* is no legal evidence in the case. Legal evidence must be something upon oath, or something to which the Magistrate himself deposes as having seen with his own eyes; but what he has acted upon in this case is no such legal evidence, and therefore no judicial adjudication can be said to have been come to in this case.

It is pressed upon us that there are many other cases on the file showing that there were disputes with regard to this land, but those *other* cases can be no evidence of an intended breach of peace on *this* special occasion, nor was any document connected with any of those cases referred to by the Magistrate as the ground of his action. Each case must be decided upon legal evidence bearing upon its own facts and with reference to its own surrounding circumstances.

We set aside the order of the Magistrate, but we express no opinion as to any title or possession of either party under decrees or otherwise. That is a matter beyond the scope of this reference under Section 434, or motion under Section 405 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The order of the Magistrate is set aside.

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ies as to the complaint of Kashee Kishore Roy, one of he parties to the dispute, that some men had been col-ected by Tarinee Kant Lahoree with a view to a seri-us affray, and that a serious affray was likely to occur.

On the 5th of April the police-officer made his report. He stated that, on the preceding day, that is, on the 4th of April, he had been to the spot in question; that he had found no assemblage of persons, and that he had seen nothing to lead him to think that there was any dispute or likelihood of an affray.

On the 14th of April there was a further report by the police, which, after stating, as in the former report, that there was no assembly or disturbance, concludes with the statement, wholly unwarranted by anything in the report itself, that, if a recognizance were not taken, a very serious riot might take place in future with respect to a boundary-dispute, which might lead to violence, if not murder.

The Deputy Magistrate makes an order which is endorsed upon that paper. He does not say that he is satisfied that a dispute likely to lead to a breach of the peace existed concerning the land in dispute. He records no proceeding stating the grounds on which he is so satisfied, but he simply orders that the case be registered under Section 318, and that the 12th of May be fixed for the hearing of the several parties, and he directed that notice to that effect be served on the parties. Now, it has been pointed out in many cases before this Court, more particularly in the case of Dewan Elahee Newaz Khan *vs.* Suburunissa, 5 Weekly Reporter, Criminal Rulings, 14, that it is a condition pre-cedent to the powers of a Magistrate to take up and decide a case under Section 318 that he should judi-cially decide that he is satisfied that a dispute likely to induce a breach of the peace exists, and that he should record a proceeding stating the grounds of his being so satisfied. Unless and until he shall have decided that preliminary matter, he has no jurisdiction to take up the case and decide the question of posses-sion under Section 318.

In the present case there has been no such decision, and certainly there is no record of the grounds upon which such decision could be based. Therefore, it is clear that the order of the Deputy Magistrate adjudi-cating that Tarinee Kant Lahoree is in possession, and entitled to retain possession until ousted by due course of law, is an order made without jurisdiction, and is therefore void and must be quashed.

It would be quite enough for us to say that we are bound by the many decisions of this Court on this point. But we desire to add that we are of opinion that there is a clear reason for requiring a distinct adjudication as to the existence of dispute likely to occasion a breach of the peace, before the Magistrate proceeds further. It is intended to prevent the Magistrate from rashly interfering with questions of possession which should ordinarily be decided by the Civil Courts, unless in cases where a breach of the peace or the commission of a crime is apprehended, and where it is necessary for the preservation of the public order that steps be taken by the Criminal Court.

We quash the order of the Deputy Magistrate.

Kemp, J.—I am of the same opinion.

The 18th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson, *Judge.*

Procedure—Summons—Breach of the peace—Recognizance.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Tirhoot.

Koonj Behary Chowdhry *versus* Eknath Gurain.

The summons to a person to show cause why he should not be required to furnish recognizances to keep the peace should, under Section 283, Code of Criminal Procedure, set out the substance of the information against him.

When the party summoned shows cause, the Magistrate, in taking evidence, should look, not merely to the question of possession, but also whether he is satisfied that there was a probability of a breach of the peace.

Reference.—THIS case arose out of a report from a police-officer in the Durbhungah Sub-Division to the effect that he was apprehensive that a breach of the peace was likely to occur by one party or the other. On this the Assistant Magistrate of Durbhungah issued a summons, under Section 283, calling on both parties to show cause why they should not be bound down to keep the peace for one year in a security-bond of 5,000 rupees each. Both parties appeared, and the Assistant Magistrate appears to have examined certain witnesses on the side of Koonj Behary Chowdhry, and these alone; and he recorded his opinion that such evidence clearly made Koonj Behary Chowdhry in the wrong, and showed that Eknath Gurain was in possession. He considered that Koonj Behary Chowdhry has not been dispossessed, and accordingly ordered him to give Rupees 5,000 as security to keep the peace towards Eknath Gurain for one year.

Koonj Behary has now appealed to me to call for the records of the case, and refer it to the High Court, alleging several irregularities and errors of procedure.

I find, on examining the case, that there are three distinct illegalities requiring revision; and I beg to ask the High Court to quash the order of the Assistant Magistrate, and pass such order as may seem proper.

The first illegality is, as urged, that the summons does not set forth the substance of the information as required by Section 283. It merely calls upon the two parties to show cause why they should not be bound down to keep the peace, but it does not say on whose information or in reference to what cause of quarrel the bond is required.

The second illegality is that the Assistant Magistrate failed to take evidence as to the probability of a breach of the peace, and to adjudicate thereupon; the evidence of the witnesses he recorded was not on that point.

The third illegality is that the Assist Magistrate, without having instituted p ceedings, as required under Section 3 Criminal Procedure Code, has pronounced the question of possession.

Under these circumstances, the order i consider, invalid, and should be referred the High Court for reversal.

The case is not one in which any expla tion from the Lower Court appears cessary.

Judgment of the High Court.

I think this order has been irregul made.

The first objection stated by the Ju would not lead me to this conclusion, un it appeared that the petitioner had be prejudiced by the omission, though doubtl the direction of the law that the summ should set out the substance of the infor tion is very important, and ought to be ca fully complied with.

But it nowhere appears that, on the p tioner attending in obedience to the su mons, the Magistrate was satisfied that was necessary for the preservation * * * to take a bo (Section 288); and the evidence taken, whi was on the petitioner's side, suggests nothi of the kind.

And Section 287, Code of Criminal Proc dure, directs that, if the Magistrate be n satisfied, &c., he is to discharge the pers summoned.

All that the Magistrate seems to have ha in his mind in examining the witnesses w the question of *possession*, which he seem to decide against the petitioner, though t inquiry before him was not of the nature a proceeding under Section 318, Code of C minal Procedure.

The power to require recognizances a sureties of the peace is a very important o and the Court would not desire to tie up t hands of Magistrates in exercising it; but should be apparent that, in making such a order, the Magistrate should have had pr sent to his mind the conditions under whi such an order can alone be made.

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The 25th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Procedure—Sanction to prosecute—Sections 170 and 426, Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Queen *versus* Mohima Chunder Chuckerbutty, *Appellant.*

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Backergunge, on a charge of fraudulently using forged documents as genuine.

Baboo Juggadanand Mookerjee for the Prosecution.

Baboos Kalee Mohun Dass and *Doorga Mohun Dass* for Appellant.

Where sanction, under Section 170 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to prosecute a person criminally for fabricating false evidence was not given, it was held that the error was not cured by Section 426 of that Code, and the person charged was ordered to be discharged. The sanction given by the Sessions Judge after the case was committed to him, and the prisoner had pleaded to the charge, is not a sanction contemplated by the law.

Loch, J.—In a suit for arrears of rent for 1271, 1272, and 1273, instituted before the Deputy Collector, Moulvie Dilwar Hossein Khan, by one Essur Chunder Roy, the defendant Mohima Chunder Chuckerbutty pleaded payment, and filed six receipts. The case, however, was ultimately decreed in favour of the plaintiff. In that case there were three defendants, and no appeal was preferred from the decree passed by the Deputy Collector on the 17th June 1870. Subsequent to the making of that decree, the plaintiff, Essur Chunder Roy, applied to the Deputy Collector for permission to prosecute Gooroo Churn and Nobin Chunder criminally, and the Deputy Collector on the 30th July 1870 made this order: "The judgment shows that the dakhillas filed by the defendant are false. Sanction is therefore given to the petitioner to prosecute the defendant criminally." It is clear that this petition and its sanction related only to the parties mentioned therein, namely, Gooroo Churn and Nobin Chunder.

Subsequently, on the 29th August 1870, Essur Chunder Roy presented a second petition to the Collector, praying that he might be allowed to prosecute Gooroo Churn, Nobin Chunder, and Mohima Chunder, the prisoner now before us, and others, and the Collector upon that petition made the following order: "Sanction has already been given once by the Deputy Collector. I, however, have no objection to give it a second time, as petitioner desires it. Sanction, therefore, is hereby given to the petitioner to institute a charge of forgery, &c. This sanction is given under Section 170 of the Criminal Procedure Code." It is evident that this order relates to and confirms the sanction given by the Deputy Collector on the 30th July 1870, and goes no further. The Collector merely repeats the sanction already given by the Deputy Collector, and there is nothing to show that the Collector intended to extend it to the other persons mentioned in the petition.

It has been urged before us that the error, if any, is one which can be cured by the terms of Section 426 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The words of that Section are to this effect: "No finding or sentence passed by a Court of competent jurisdiction shall be reversed or altered on appeal or revision on account of any error or defect either in the charge or in the proceedings or the trial, unless the accused person shall have been sentenced to a larger amount of punishment than could be awarded for the offence," and so on. But the error in this case has been committed neither in the charge nor in the proceedings or the trial. The error has been committed at the commencement, and no proceedings should have taken place previous to sanction being given.

It has been further contended that as this suit was for an amount of rent above 100 rupees, the Collector's Court was not the proper Court to which application should have been made for permission to prosecute the defendants criminally; and that the proper Court is the Judge's Court to which the appeal would lie. As we think, however, that no sanction has been given as regards the prisoner now before us, it is unnecessary for us to determine that point. The sanction given by the Sessions Judge after the case had been committed, and the prisoner pleaded to the charge, and the trial had actually commenced, is clearly not a sanction contemplated by the law.

Such being the case, we think that the proceedings taken against the prisoner before us must be quashed, and the prisoner discharged.

Macpherson, J.—I concur.

The 25th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jury—Evidence.

The Queen *versus* Bahar Ali Kahar, *Appellant.*

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Dacca, on a charge of murder.

Conviction by a Jury set aside in a case of murder in which there was a total absence of all evidence to show that the prisoner had committed the crime.

Jackson, J.—The prisoner, Bahar Ali, has been sentenced to transportation for life on a conviction of the offence of murder. The prisoner was tried at Dacca by the Sessions Judge with the assistance of a Jury, who returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoner.

On perusing the proceedings, the question which appears to us really to arise on the evidence given on the trial is whether there is evidence at all to connect the prisoner with the crime. If there is a total absence of all evidence to show that the prisoner had committed the crime, the conviction by the Jury cannot be allowed to stand; it will be bad in law, and must be set aside. It appears to us that in this case there is a total absence of all evidence of any sort whatever to prove that the prisoner committed the murder of which he has been convicted. The evidence shows that he and his wife, a young girl of 9 or 10 years of age, were sleeping at night in their house. The other members of the family were sleeping in the same compound. The mother of the prisoner, on awaking towards the morning, went, hearing a noise, to their house, and found both the prisoner and his wife lying on the ground with their throats cut; the prisoner's wife was dead, and the prisoner was most severely wounded, but was still alive. The prisoner was sent to the hospital at Dacca, where, after several months, he recovered.

The prisoner has been charged with murdering his wife. No evidence whatever is adduced to show that there was any motive whatever for his committing such a murder; there is no evidence of any quarrel; there is no evidence whatever why the prisoner should have attacked his own wife. There is no evidence whatever also to prove that the wound inflicted on the throat of the prisoner was inflicted by himself. Had it been distinctly proved that it was suicidal, that fact would have been some evidence to prove that he also cut his wife's throat. The point, however, seems to have altogether escaped the notice of the Deputy Magistrate who conducted the investigation. There seems to have been no examination of the wounds of the prisoner; or, if there has been, there is no certificate or report of it upon the record, and the medical man who attended him has not been examined in any way upon the subject. This perhaps, under the circumstances, would have been the only piece of evidence which could have been obtained, but there has been no attempt to adduce it.

There is also some difficulty in connecting the evidence as to the finding in the prisoner's house of the *dao* with which, it is said, the murder was committed, with the position in which the prisoner was found when the murder was discovered. There is no evidence to show that the *dao* was found in any way near the prisoner. If he had inflicted upon himself the very severe wound which undoubtedly had been inflicted upon him, he could hardly have had strength sufficient after inflicting such a wound to have removed the *dao* to any great distance. It is, of course, possible that some of the females may have removed the *dao* afterwards; but there is no evidence to prove that the *dao* was found anywhere near the prisoner. Again, there is no evidence that the murder was committed with this *dao*.

The prisoner's own account of the facts is that some person came in the middle of the night, and cut his wife's and his throat, and went away. The prisoner does not know or say who committed the act. It may be a true answer, or it may be a false one. It may still be that the prisoner did cut his wife's throat. But there is no evidence upon which any certainty upon the point can be established against the prisoner.

In the absence of all motive—in the absence of all evidence connecting him with the murder—and in the absence of all enquiry as to whether the wound on his own throat was suicide or not— the only conclusion at which we can arrive is that there is no evidence upon which the prisoner can be convicted of the murder with which he is charged.

This case being one of some importance, and there being some hesitation in our mind to interfere with the verdict of the Jury, we asked the learned Chief Justice to hear the case with us, and he concurs in the opinion which we take of the case, and thinks that the prisoner must be acquitted. The prisoner will accordingly be acquitted, and the conviction and the sentence against him will be set aside.

The Sessions Judge does not say, as he should, whether he agreed in the verdict of the Jury.

Mookerjee, J.—I entirely concur. I think there was no evidence in this case to go to a Jury. I would acquit the prisoner, and direct his immediate release.

The 25th March 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Plunder of crops—Claim of property.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Magistrate of Monghyr.

Nassib Chowdhry *versus* Nannoo Chowdhry.

The mere assertion of a fair claim of property or right, or the mere existence of a doubt as to right, is not sufficient to justify an acquittal in a case of plunder of crops. The claim to the property must be *proved* by evidence to be fair and good.

Bayley, J.—The question before us in this reference is, whether under the facts of the case as shown by the evidence, the Sessions Judge is right in reversing the order of the Magistrate, and acquitting the party-defendant convicted by the Magistrate of plunder of crops.

The Judge's decision in its main point is that, "assuming the account of the complainant and of his witnesses to be correct, "the circumstances of the case show that "the appellant, in taking the crops, acted "under a color of right; and, however ill-"founded the claim may be, still the de-"fendant is not guilty of the crime of theft "by asserting it." Again, the Sessions Judge remarks that "the police-report "confirms the theory that though the tak-"ing might be wrongful and fraudulent, "still it was not without a color of right; "and hence a conviction for theft is bad." The Sessions Judge concluded by stating: "The rule in such cases seems to be that "if there be any fair claim of property or "right in the prisoner, or if it be brought "into doubt at all, the Court will direct an "acquittal."

Now, the rule of law is thus not quite correctly stated. The mere *assertion* of a fair claim of property or right, or the mere existence of a doubt, is not enough. The claim of property must be *proved* by evidence to be *fair* and *good;* and the Sessions Judge's judgment ought to have set forth fully how that proof was shown by evidence; and especially in this case, where the judgment of a Lower Court, detailing in a clear and cogent manner all the bearings and force of the evidence on the record, was reversed. Further, it is not correct in the Judge to say "if it *be brought into doubt at all.*" It must be shown that there is a *reasonable doubt,* and how on the evidence on both sides the reasonableness of the doubt is supported. In this view it is here necessary to go into the facts proved in evidence to see if the law has been properly applied.

We have carefully perused all the evidence. It is proved that the complainant was in possession under a deed, such as is ordinarily on such a good deed of title. There is no reason to doubt that it was such a title as ensured, or ought legally to have ensured, to him quiet possession. It is shown that the complainants sowed and tended the crops. Now, on the other hand, we find that there was a report to the police on the 16th June of an intended breach of the peace. On enquiry by the police no signs of such a state of things was found. But, taking all the other facts and circumstances into consideration, we are not satisfied that the plea of right set up by the prisoner was altogether without foundation. The genuine-

ness of the *chitti* is admitted, and there was reason for the defendant to think that, coming whence it did, it gave a ground of title. While, therefore, we express our dissent with the view of the law laid down by the Sessions Judge, we give the prisoner the benefit of our doubts on the evidence, and so far affirm the order of acquittal.

Mitter, J.—I am of the same opinion. The evidence for the prosecution is not at all sufficient to satisfy me that the prosecutor was in possession of the land; and the defendant has proved that he had a fair title to it. Under these circumstances, the conviction cannot be supported; and I would therefore affirm the Judge's decision, though I entirely differ from him in the view of the law which he has taken.

The 1st April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

Procedure — Offence — Punishment—Section 4, Act XVII. of 1862—Section 426, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mohabeer Singh, *Petitioner.*

Baboo Kali Prosunno Dutt for the Petitioner.

In a case in which the accused was charged under Sections of the Penal Code of an offence which was committed before the Penal Code came into operation, it was held that, having regard to Section 4, Act XVII. of 1862, and Section 426 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the error of procedure was not sufficient to vitiate the conviction so long as the punishment awarded as under the Penal Code did not exceed that which was the legal penalty for the offence before the Penal Code became law.

Bayley, J.—We think this application under Section 404 of the Criminal Procedure Code must be rejected. The first ground taken is that the prisoner was indicted on two charges specifically made under the Sections of the Penal Code, the offence having been admitted to be committed before the Penal Code came into operation. This being admitted, the only question is how to regard the matter with reference to the provisions of Section 4, Act XVII of 1862, and Section 426 of the Criminal Procedure Code. It is quite clear that, whether there are defects in the procedure or not, it was never intended that an alleged offence should go unpunished so long as it was proved to be an offence against the law existing when it was committed, and so long as the punishment awarded as under the Penal Code does not exceed that which was the legal penalty for the offence before the Penal Code came into operation. We have heard the evidence read out to us, and the substance is that, on a police-officer acting in the exercise of his duty under the orders of his superior officer, and acting legally, the accused attacked him with a sword, and wounded him in the arm to the extent of a barleycorn in depth and two or three inches in length. This would certainly have been an assault with wounding under the criminal law before the passing of the Penal Code, and would have been punishable, according to circumstances, with imprisonment for a longer or shorter period, but certainly for a period of 9 months, which is the sentence in this case. We therefore see no illegality or injustice in the orders of the Judge and the Magistrate, and we reject this application.

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The 1st April 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Irregularity—Procedure—Sentence—Repealed law—Section 426, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Magistrate of Cuttack.

Rughoonath Dass *versus* Chuckerdhun Raut and others.

Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter for Rughoonath Dass.

Where a Magistrate convicted under certain repealed Sections of a law, the High Court refused to set aside the conviction, having regard to Section 426, Code of Criminal Procedure, as the conviction and sentence might have been passed under Sections of the Penal Code, and no substantial injury had been done to the accused.

Reference.—On the 10th December Rughoonath Dass Carjee laid information before the police that Chuckerdhun Raut and others had caused about 200 heads of cattle to trespass on his master's land and that they did mischief to the extent of Rs. 54 ; that, as these were being led off to the thannah, defendant and others formed an illegal assembly, and released them. The police enquired into the case, and sent up three men for trial under Sections 143, 144, 447, Indian Penal Code.

The case was made over for trial to the Joint Magistrate, who convicted all three accused under Section 1, Act XXII. of 1861, and sentenced Chuckerdhun Raut to a fine of Rs. 50, or in default to rigorous imprisonment for one calendar month, the amount, when realized, to be paid to complainant. The other two accused were sentenced to a fine of Rs. 3 each, or in default one month's rigorous imprisonment, the fines when realized to be paid to Ram Behara, a ryot of complainant.

It is objected, 1st, that Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, Act XXII. of 1861, have been repealed by Act XVII. of 1862 ; 2nd, that the case was not cognizable by the police, and ought to have been instituted by petition before the Magistrate on stamp-paper ; 3rd, that Ram Behara was not a party to the case, never appeared in it at all, made no claim for compensation, and ought not to have been awarded any.

As regards objections 2 and 3, the Joint Magistrate could, under Section 44, Act XXV. of 1861, as amended by Act VIII. of 1869, award compensation to any person shown to have been injured. It was shown in the evidence that cattle had trespassed on, and injured, Ram Behara's field. The police also were competent to take notice of the case under Sections 143, 144, 447, and to send it up for trial. Nor was the Joint Magistrate, in disposing of it, bound to adhere to those Sections. I do not, therefore, think these objections of any avail. The first, however, is valid. Section 1, Act XXII. of 1861, has been repealed by Act XVII. of 1862, and the defendants have been convicted under a law which is not in existence.

The mistake is so palpable that I have not thought it necessary to call upon the Joint Magistrate for an explanation.

The proper Sections to convict under were 426 or 427 of the Penal Code, and the mistake was purely accidental.

As, however, it is doubtful whether the sentence is under the circumstances legal, I refer the case for the orders of the High Court.

Judgment of the High Court.

Macpherson, J.—Although in this case the Joint Magistrate has no doubt convicted under certain repealed Sections of Act XXII. of 1861, we think it clear that he might, under Sections 426 and 427 of the Penal Code, have convicted, and have passed a sentence similar to that which he has passed. Therefore, with reference to the terms of Section 426 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, no substantial injustice having been done to the persons who have been convicted, we think that we ought not to reverse or alter the finding or the sentence which has been passed.

The 6th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble W. Ainslie and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Chemical Examiner's report—Evidence—Section 370, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Beerbhoom, on a charge of murder.

The Queen *versus* Bishumbhur Doss, *Appellant.*

Under Section 370 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the original report of the Chemical Examiner bearing his signature, and not a copy of the report, should be put in evidence.

Paul, J.—In this case it appears to us that the conviction should be affirmed. There are certain clear facts in this case which it is necessary to notice. The murdered woman, Choramonee Boishtubee, was the mistress of the prisoner. She was last seen alive on the 25th Aughran, and her body was found by the Chowkeedar Gogan on the 4th Pous in the Heera Ranchee tank. The finding of the body led to enquiries being made, which resulted in the searching of the cow-house of the prisoner and the discovery of a grave in which a dead body had evidently been interred. The earth in that grave was moist, and emitted a bad smell. Some skin spoken to by the medical witness as being that of the fingers of the human hand was found in or near the grave. On the discovery having proceeded thus far, the prisoner produced certain silver ornaments which he had secreted in a mulberry-field; and these articles were identified by the maternal uncle of the deceased as hers.

The prisoner made a statement, which has been duly recorded, to the effect that he was present at the time the deceased woman was murdered by three other persons; that he saw the grave dug and her body interred; and that subsequently the body was taken out and thrown into the tank. The prisoner also says that the parties who murdered the woman were in the act of taking away the ornaments, but that he interfered and took them and buried them. The circumstances thus detailed make it clear that Choramonee was murdered at or about the 25th Aughran; that she was buried in the cow-house of the prisoner, and subsequently thrown into the tank, where it was found by the chowkeedar. The only question which remains is, who murdered her. If we accept the prisoner's statement, it would appear that he was an accomplice to the act of murder; and he has therefore been properly convicted. Taking the prisoner's confessions with the general facts of the case which have been proved, we think he took an active part in the murder of the deceased. With reference to these views, the judgment and sentence must be confirmed.

Under Section 370 of Act XXV. of 1861, a report from the Chemical Examiner is evidence in a criminal trial, *if it bear the signature of the Examiner;* and according to this Section the original report bearing the signature of the Examiner should be put in evidence. On the present occasion we observe that *a copy* of the report has been sent up by the Magistrate; this is wholly irregular. In future, care should be taken that the original report be submitted.

The 14th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble L. S. Jackson and A. G. Macpherson, *Judges.*

Land-disputes—Order by public servant—Section 318, Code of Criminal Procedure—Section 188, Penal Code.

Abelakh Lall and others, *Petitioners,*

versus

Sirnam Singh, *Opposite Party.*

Mr. R. T. Allan and *Baboo Kishen Sucar Mookerjee* for the Petitioners.

Baboo Kali Kishen Sein for the Opposite Party.

Where an order had been made by a Magistrate under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in favor of *A* in respect of certain land, and *B* subsequently obtained an order from the Collector declaring him entitled to the same land, in pursuance of which he was put into possession by an officer of the Collector; it was held that, before *B* could be convicted under Section 188 of the Penal Code of disobeying an order made by a public officer, it should be proved that *B* was aware of the order under Section 318, and that, having that knowledge, he disobeyed it.

Jackson, J.—It seems to me that that part of the proceedings of the Magistrate confirmed on appeal by the Sessions Judge, which relates to the conviction of the petitioners under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code, ought to be set aside. The supposed offence under Section 188 consisted in this—that whereas an order had been made at some previous time in respect of the land which was the subject of dispute by the Magistrate under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and whereas the petitioners subsequently obtained a decision of the Collector (in proceeding to which both the petitioners, who are prosecutors, were parties), that is to say, an order or award declaring the petition-

entitle to a settlement for the land in question, and were placed in possession of that land by an officer of the Collector; the Magistrate considered him to have thereby infringed the order made under Section 318, and to have committed an offence under the 188th Section of the Code.

The Sessions Judge who tried this case on appeal appears to have considered that the point for decision was whether the opposite party, having got an order under Section 318, had been subsequently ousted by due course of law.

That, however, it seems to me, is not the real point for decision. The question is whether, in the circumstances stated, the petitioner can be said to have known that by an order promulgated by a public servant, that is to say, the Deputy Magistrate, and then in force, he was directed to abstain from a certain act, that is, from acquiring and keeping possession of the land, and with that knowledge to have disobeyed that direction. Now, it appears to me that, when, after the passing of the order under Section 318, the Collector, assuming to act on the part of the Government, and to deal with this land as being land of a khas mehal, made an award in favor of the petitioners, and placed them in possession through his own officers, he did, to say the least, by such act, give the petitioners cause to believe that they were thereby entitled to receive and retain possession of the land to which such award related, and consequently they could not have been said to have voluntarily committed an offence under Section 188.

Without placing the decision of the Court at all upon the ground which I am about to state, I think it may be added that, considering that the offence supposed to have been committed under Section 188 arose out of the very same act which had formed the ground of a conviction under Section 144, while I admit that the Magistrate was legally competent to convict the prisoners under both Sections, it seems to me to have been at least an unnecessary and harsh proceeding, when a severe sentence had been already passed under Section 144, to pass a further sentence of fine under Section 188.

I think the order of the Magistrate to the extent I have stated, that is to say, as regards the conviction under Section 188, must be set aside.

Macpherson, J.—I concur.

The 15th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Theft—Joint-proprietor—Section 378, Penal Code.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Magistrate of Backergunge.

Keamuddin *versus* Allah Buksh.

Section 378 of the Penal Code does not include under the offence of theft the case where one joint proprietor takes into his own sole possession property belonging to himself and his co-proprietors which had previously been in their joint custody.

Norman, C. J.—The point in this case is as follows :—

Keamuddin, the gomashtah of a shop called the shop of Mozuffer Meah, was coming out of the Small Cause Court with some books, a khutean and a jummah-khuruch account, belonging to that shop.

Allah Buksh, who had a share in that shop, took these books out of the possession of Keamuddin, and kept them against the will of Keamuddin, saying they were his.

The Deputy Magistrate says: "The fact of "Allah Buksh having a right to the papers "is not questioned in this case. He may "have every right to them; but, so long as "they are legally in the possession of another "person, he cannot get possession of them "except through the Civil Court. It matters "little either whether he is any special gainer "by taking possession of the papers, when "the fact remains that he did take them—and "that against the will of the complainant."

The Deputy Magistrate found Allah Buksh guilty of theft, and sentenced him to a fine of Rupees 10, and ordered the papers to be returned to the complainant.

It appears to me that this conviction cannot be sustained.

Keamuddin was the servant of the prisoner, Allah Buksh, and his partners. By Section 27 of the Indian Penal Code, it is declared

that, when property is in the possession of a person's servant, it is in that person's possession within the meaning of the Code.

The khutean and jumma-khuruch account must, therefore, be taken to have been in the possession of Allah Buksh and his co-sharers at the time when Allah Buksh took them from Keamuddin.

Section 378 does not include under the offence of theft the case where one joint-proprietor takes into his own sole possession property belonging to himself and his co-proprietors, which had been previously in their joint-custody. If the law were as supposed by the Magistrate, no master could safely take his own property from the hand of his servant. No partner in a business could safely take a rupee from the till for the most urgent necessity.

It may be that the accused did, or intended to do, some wrong to his co-sharers in taking possession of the books. But, if so, the offence, if any, is not theft.

I am of opinion that the conviction and order of the Deputy Magistrate must be quashed, and the fine refunded.

Loch, J.—To constitute the offence of theft, there must be not only a taking against the will of the person in possession, but a taking dishonestly. The definition of "dishonestly," as given in Section 24 of the Penal Code, is the doing anything with the intention of causing wrongful gain to one person or wrongful loss to another person. Did Allah Buksh take the book from the gomashtah dishonestly as defined above? He does not appear to have done so with any intent to injure his co-partners, or to derive gain to himself. It is true that the gomashtah says in his examination that the papers showed an entry of Rupees 500, by not showing which the accused would gain. But there is nothing to show that Allah Buksh intended to make away w these papers, and the gomashtah admits th they were heretofore in the possession Allah Buksh and his two co-sharers. I not think the charge of theft is made o and I concur with the Chief Justice in qua ing the conviction, and directing the rep ment of the fine.

The 21st April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and A. G. M pherson, *Judges.*

Procedure—Flogging—Previous convicti

The Queen *versus* Nuzee Nushyo, *Appell*

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by Sessions Judge of Rungpore, on a char theft in a building.

As a rule, before flogging is given as an addi punishment, there ought to be formal evidence upo record of the previous convictions relied on. The viction and identity of the prisoner ought to be pr in the regular way. A mere kyfeut is no evidence w ever.

Macpherson, J.—I SEE no reason to in fere, as the prisoner admitted having b twice before convicted of theft.

I desire to add, however, that, as a r before flogging is given as an additional p ishment, there ought to be formal evide upon the record of the previous convicti relied on. The conviction and identity the prisoner ought to be proved in the re lar way. A mere kyfeut, such as there in this case, is no evidence whatever.

The prisoner, however, by admitting convictions, removed all questions in this p ticular case.

I would dismiss the appeal.

Bayley, J.—I concur.

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The 22nd April 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Procedure—Previous conviction.

he Queen *versus* Sheikh Ramzan, *Appellant.*

ommitted by the Assistant Commissioner, and tried by the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhoom, on a charge of theft.

A mere kyfeut from the record-office is not sufficient to prove a former conviction against a prisoner. There should be sworn testimony to the fact, and also the identification of the prisoner with the person viously convicted.

Glover, J.—THERE can be no doubt that e prisoner has been properly convicted of eft under Section 380, Penal Code. There ay be a question as to how much he stole, it it is clear that he took at least 2 rupees.

The prisoner has been sentenced to 4 years' orous imprisonment, apparently on account his having been twice before convicted of eft in June 1870; but there is no evidence n the record of these convictions. It is not ough for the prosecution to file a kyfeut om the record-office, setting forth the fact at one Sheikh Ramzan had been twice be- e convicted of theft. There should have en sworn testimony to the fact, and also the identification of the prisoner before e Court with the Sheikh Ramzan previous- convicted.

If the fact of the two previous convictions e expunged from the record, the offence of hich the prisoner has been convicted does ot seem to call for such a severe sentence as years' rigorous imprisonment. We reduce to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble W. Ainslie, *Judge.*

Procedure—Accused—Discharge—Prosecutor—Complainant—Sections 67 and 180, and Chapter XIV., Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Jessore.

Tuki Mahomed Mundul *versus* Kisto Nath Rai and others.

Where the accused, who has been duly summoned or arrested under a warrant in a case under Chapter XIV., Code of Criminal Procedure, is present to meet any charge, and no evidence is forthcoming against him owing to the absence of the prosecutor and his witnesses, if it be not shown to the Magistrate that the case is one in which he ought to adjourn the enquiry under Section 224, the Magistrate is bound to discharge such accused person.

Section 180 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was not intended to enable a Magistrate in ordinary cases to examine witnesses in the absence of the accused. Under Section 67 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a complainant has a right to an adjudication upon the point whether, in the judgment of the Magistrate, there is sufficient ground for proceeding.

Norman, C. J.—THE point referred to the High Court in this case is, whether a Deputy Magistrate, in dealing with a charge of wrongful confinement under Section 342 of the Indian Penal Code, under Chapter XIV. of the Code of Criminal Procedure, has power to discharge the accused, if the prosecutor and witnesses are not present on the day fixed for the hearing.

Notwithstanding the case cited from the 10th Weekly Reporter, page 31, I think that there is no doubt but that, where the accused, who has been duly summoned or arrested under a warrant, is present to meet any charge, and no evidence is forthcoming against him, if it be not shown to the Magistrate that the case is one in which he ought to adjourn the inquiry under Section 224, the Magistrate is not only authorized, but is empowered, and in fact required, to discharge such accused person. The case of the accused stands thus: On the day of trial, not only has no offence been proved, but there is no evidence on which a Magistrate could possibly find that an offence had been proved.

The point, however, does not arise on the facts of the case before us. On the 28th of December a complaint appears to have been preferred by the prosecutor to the officer in charge of the police-station, which resulted in an enquiry, which must have been by order of the Magistrate, and a report that the charge of wrongful confinement was a false one. Dissatisfied with the result of the police-inquiry on the 16th of January, the prosecutor made his complaint under Section 66, before the Joint Magistrate, Mr. * * *, who examined the prosecutor on the 17th; but his only order on that complaint was: "Let this be put with the police-papers." There seems to be an order of the Joint Magistrate on the police-report on the 16th that witnesses should be in attendance on the 21st.

On the 21st the case was adjourned to the 28th. The complainant's witnesses had been summoned—by which authority I know not—and were, in fact, then in attendance. On the 28th the case was made over to the Deputy Magistrate, who, in an order stating that he had no time to take up the case on that day, fixed the 1st of February for hearing the complainant's witnesses. On the 1st of February, the complainant and his witnesses not being in attendance, the case was dismissed by the Deputy Magistrate.

Down to this time no summons or warrant had issued against the defendant. The Joint Magistrate did not decide that there was no sufficient ground for proceeding. All that we know on that point is, that the Joint Magistrate and the Deputy Magistrate between them have burked the case and got rid of a troublesome complainant. I think the Joint Magistrate's proceedings were illegal and oppressive.

The law contemplates no such delays as those which the Joint Magistrate has interposed between the complaint and the adjudication upon such complaint.

I do not think that Section 180 was ever intended to enable the Magistrate in ordinary cases to examine witnesses in the absence of the accused. I do not say that a case may not be supposed in which such a course may be necessary.

On the 17th of January, with the police-report and the examination of the complainant before him, it is very diffcult to see why the Joint Magistrate should not have proceeded at once to pass orders under Section 67. The reference to the Subordinate Magistrate on the 28th must have been an additional cause of vexation and expense to the unfortunate complainant.

Delay in the adjudication upon complaints in small criminal cases is a great hardship to poor people, who may be debarred from resorting to Courts of Justice by finding that the remedy is an evil more grievous than the wrong.

The complainant had and has a right to an adjudication under Section 67, upon the point whether, in the judgment of the Magistrate, there is sufficient ground for proceeding. I think it may very well be that the complainant's absence on the day of hearing may have been caused by the utter weariness of hanging about the police-station in the first place, and the Court afterwards with his witnesses, in the hope of getting a proper hearing. I think Mr. * * should be directed to restore the case to his own file, and to do now what he ought to have done at latest within a few days after the 31st of last December.

Ainslie, J.—It appears to me that the question referred to this Court does not arise in this case. The Magistrate had not issued nor had he made any order to issue, any warrant or summons to bring the accused person before the Court.

The matter was in that stage to which the provisions of Section 180 of the Criminal Procedure Code apply. By Section 249, as amended by Act VIII. of 1869, the provisions of Section 180 are extended to cases triable by the Magistrate under Chapter XIV. of the Code. The Magistrate had before him a report by the police, on the charge preferred by the complainant at the police-station to the effect that it was a false charge.

On the 16th of January 1871, he directed that a limited number of witnesses should be sent in for examination. Whether he had before him at this time the complainant's petition, which bears date 4th Magh 1277, corresponding to the 16th January 1871, is uncertain; but this is not material. When the complainant had been examined on the 17th, he made an order that his complaint should be put up with the police papers; and as he made no further order on it, I think his order of the 16th must be taken as intended to be a sufficient order in the matter and as made under Section 180.

By the order of the 16th January, the 21st idem was fixed for proceeding with the prelimi-

nary enquiry, under Section 180. Apparently no steps were taken to bring in the witnesses, and on the 21st the Magistrate made a further order that they should be summoned to attend on the 28th.

On the 28th certain witnesses attended under the summons, and on that day the Magistrate made over the case to the Deputy Magistrate with instructions to satisfy himself by examining the witnesses whether there were sufficient grounds for proceeding further, and to go on with the case or dismiss it summarily accordingly. On the same day the Deputy Magistrate recorded an order to the effect that he was unable to proceed with the case on that day, and directed that the witnesses should be discharged on recognizances to appear again on the 1st of February. On the 1st of February the case was called on, but neither complainant nor witnesses were in attendance, and it was dismissed on default. Such being the facts, it appears to me that the ruling quoted by the Sessions Judge, reported in 10 Weekly Reporter, Criminal Rulings, p. 31, does not apply. Still less does the ruling reported in 12 Weekly Reporter, p. 27, Criminal Rulings, do so.

This was a case in which the complaint had not been admitted: the issue of process against the accused was dependent on the Court being satisfied of the propriety of making any order in the matter. If the complainant negligently failed to appear and satisfy the Court, there was nothing to make it incumbent on the Deputy Magistrate to proceed further with the complaint.

But, under the circumstances of this case, I concur in thinking that the non-attendance of the complainant on the 1st February ought not to have been treated as a wilful act of negligence, and that the Deputy Magistrate's order of that date dismissing the complaint should be set aside.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Procedure—Sanction to prosecute—Section 169, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(Miscellaneous Case.)

The Queen *versus* Rajkishore Roy and another, *Petitioners.*

Baboo Luckee Churn Bose for the Petitioners.

Where sanction to prosecute on a criminal charge under Section 169 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was given in the case of only one prisoner out of two prisoners who were tried together, the High Court directed the release of the prisoner in regard to whom such sanction was not given.

Glover, J.—The objections urged in this application for revision of the Sessions Judge's and Magistrate's orders under Section 404 of the Criminal Procedure Code are—

(1) That Rajkishore Roy having been acquitted by the Deputy Magistrate, the Magistrate had no jurisdiction to take up the case again.

(2) That there was no sanction to the proceedings, as required by Section 169, Code of Criminal Procedure.

With regard to the first objection, I observe that, although the order of the Deputy Magistrate is recorded on the printed "judgment of acquittal" form, it is clear from the written part of his judgment that the accused was, as a matter of fact, discharged," and not "acquitted." The words are: "Be discharged under Section 250 of the "Criminal Procedure Code;" and this Section undoubtedly refers to cases in which no charge has been drawn up, because in the Magistrate's opinion no offence has been proved. It has been argued that, as some evidence was taken on behalf of the accused, the order passed was in the nature of an acquittal. If any evidence had been taken, no doubt this would be so; but there is nothing on the record to show that such was the case. One of the accused appears to have stated in his defence that their innocence would be shown from certain record, but he did not put in this record, nor call any witnesses. Moreover, the Deputy Magistrate's own language makes it perfectly clear, to my mind, that he discharged the accused, and did not acquit him. He refers to a case decided by the High Court, in which it was held that a person giving what afterwards turned out to be false information, without testing its correctness, was guilty of irregularity, but was not liable to be prosecuted for a false complaint; and, considering the circumstances to be similar, holds that Rajkishore was not liable to be prosecuted.

It appears to me, therefore, that the Magistrate had jurisdiction to take up the case *de novo.*

With regard to Rajkishore Rai, it is clear that sanction under Section 169, Code of Criminal Procedure, was given; the order is on the record.

I do not, however, find any such sanction in the case of Ramjeebun Rai, and under the circumstances it was specially necessary to have the sanction expressly shown, inasmuch as Ramjeebun admittedly did not go to the police-station, and there was only Rajkishore's statement to prove that the information had been supplied by his brother.

I think that the prisoner, Ramjeebun, should have the benefit of the omission by the Magistrate to sanction the prosecution against him. With the order passed on the other prisoner there seems no reason to interfere.

Kemp, J.—I concur.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Procedure—Recognizance—Security—Sections 280-282, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Gobind Sooboodhee and others, *Petitioners.*

Baboo Mohendro Lall Mitter for the Petitioners.

An order calling for recognizances under Section 280, or for security under Section 281, Code of Criminal Procedure, must be passed at the time of deciding the original case. If no such order is then made, subsequent proceedings must be taken under Section 282, and the parties summoned to show cause.

Glover, J.—We are of opinion that an order calling for recognizances under Section 280, Criminal Procedure Code, or for security under Section 281, must be passed at the time of deciding the original case. The words "in addition" in both Sections refer to the substantive sentence passed on an accused, in consequence of which sentence, and without any further enquiry, such person is at once liable to be called on for either recognizances or security, or for both.

If the order for recognizance or security is not made at the time of passing final sentence, any subsequent proceedings must, we think, be taken under Section 282, and the parties must be summoned to show cause in the usual way.

We, therefore, annul the orders of the Officiating Joint Magistrate.

The 24th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Procedure—Breach of the peace—Section 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh.

Kartick Chunder Bal (on the part of Dwarkanath Rai), *Petitioner,*

versus

Chunder Nath Chuckerbutty (on the part of Jannobi Chowdrain), *Opposite Party.*

Baboo Mohinee Mohun Roy for the Petitioner.

Where a complaint was made by *A* that timber belonging to his master, which had been cut and stacked in a certain place, had been removed by *B*, who said that the timber was cut, not by *A's* master, but by himself, and that he had stacked it in a place where he always put his timber, it was held that the Magistrate could not proceed under Section 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, but was bound to try the charge brought against *B*, and either restore the timber to *A*, or leave it where it was, according to the result of the investigation.

Reference.—Two parties having contending claims to some stacked timber, the Deputy Magistrate then in charge of the Attiah Subdivision called upon them to show cause why an order should not be issued under Section 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

He examined two witnesses, who deposed regarding the claims set up; and the parties appeared in their own defence, and presented petitions.

The Joint Magistrate, during the absence of the Deputy Magistrate, received charge of the Attiah Sub-division, and passed a prohibitory order in respect of the said timber. Considering that interference by either party with the same would be likely to bring about a breach of the peace, he recorded an order under Section 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, directing them not to interfere with the timber, until their dispute was either settled amicably or by some competent Court.

This order appears to me to be opposed to the ruling of the Hon'ble Court reported in Volume XII., Weekly Reporter, page 38, Criminal Rulings.

It was there laid down that the power of issuing orders to prevent breaches of the peace, &c., conferred on a Magistrate by Section 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, extends only to immoveable property of the description set forth in Chapter XXII. of that Code.

The Joint Magistrate in explanation states in his letter (without No.) of the 14th instant that his order had reference solely to the parties' acts, and that he does not think it is effected by the nature of the property, regarding which he made no order.

The Joint Magistrate appears to have lost sight of the fact that in the nature of the property lies the whole pith of the matter as touching the legality of his order.

Neither can I understand how an order directing that certain timber should not be interfered with by certain parties, under certain conditions, can be construed as not being an order in respect of that property, but must be taken to have reference "solely to "the parties, acts."

In the ruling to which I have referred, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson said: "Baboo Kali Mohun Dass appeared to support "the order of the Magistrate. He took two "points. The first of these points was that "Section 62 justified the Magistrate in inter-"fering with money in the hands of one per-"son to which another person laid claim, and "in respect of which it was thought likely "that a quarrel was about to take place "which might lead to a breach of the peace. "It appears to me as clear as anything can "be that the Section referred to could have "no possible bearing on the point. The Le-"gislature has sufficiently indicated the pur-"poses of and the extent for which and to "which the interference of the Magistrate "of property, when adverse claims to that "property are set up, may take place. That "interference is expressly restricted to im-"moveable property of the kind set forth in "the 22nd Chapter of the same."

I have deferred submitting the records of this case, pending the receipt of the Weekly Reporter for the current month, Volume XIV., No. 17, in which is reported the decision of the Full Bench of the Hon'ble Court to the effect that the order of a Magistrate under Section 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not a judicial order, and that consequently the Court cannot take cognizance of it under Section 404 of the Code.

But, on reading the decisions of the several Hon'ble Judges who gave that ruling, I observe that it was, so to say, assumed that witnesses would not be examined, or parties called upon for their defence, before such orders were passed, the jurisdiction of the Magistrate in such cases being of a very summary character.

It may so happen, however, as it has happened in this case, that parties may be regularly called upon for their defence, and to show cause why action should not be taken under Section 62, and witnesses be examined, as they are found to have been in this case; and I do not construe the ruling of the Court to imply that under no circumstances could proceedings under Section 62 be of a judicial character.

It seems to me, with reference to the remarks of the Hon'ble Judges in the case I refer to, that the true test to apply to the question whether a proceeding or order of a Magistrate under Section 62 is judicial or not, is whether parties have been summoned to show cause, or placed on their defence, and witnesses been examined.

Mr. Justice L. S. Jackson said:—

"There are certain Chapters and Sections of "the Procedure Code in which a specific "procedure is laid down for the Magistrate in "cases which might appear to be such as "would come under Section 62. In cases "which did come precisely within the scope "of those sections, in which a specific proce-"dure is laid down, I think the Magistrate "would be bound to act according to that "procedure; and where that procedure re-"quires the hearing of the parties, and the "arriving at a conclusion upon the evidence, "or the decision of any contested point, no "doubt the enquiry becomes judicial, and "the order is judicial."

Mr. Justice Kemp said: "No evidence "having been taken, and no party having "been put upon his defence, this order of the "Magistrate was, in my opinion, not a judicial "order, but an executive order to prevent "people who were lawfully employed in "bringing their goods for sale in the markets "from being obstructed and annoyed."

The Chief Justice said: "I agree with Mr. "Justice Phear that, if we look upon this "provision in the Code of Criminal Proce-

"dure as in the nature of an injunction, "where the Court would exercise its power "in the same way as it would in the case "of an injunction, it would be necessary to "give the parties an opportunity of being "heard, and having the matter tried as in a "judicial proceeding."

I have given these extracts from the judgments of these Hon'ble Judges because they seem to me to bear out the view I have taken, that proceedings and orders under Section 62 become, under certain conditions, of a judicial character; and of that character they seem to have been in this case, where the parties called on to show cause appeared to do so, and witnesses were examined, final orders being subsequently passed.

I, therefore, submit that the order of the Joint Magistrate should be quashed on the following grounds :—

1st.—That though passed under Section 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, it was from the circumstances attending it a judicial order.

2nd.—That it was an illegal order with reference to the ruling of the Honorable Court in the case of the Queen *versus* Goluck Chunder Gooho, W. R., Vol. XII., Criminal Rulings, page 38.

Judgment of the High Court.

Jackson, J.—It seems to me that the order of the Magistrate, as regards the timber, should not have been passed under Section 62. A charge was preferred to him by the agent of Dwarkanath Rai, that the timber belonging to his master, which had been cut and stacked in a certain place, had been removed from that place, and taken possession of by certain persons. Those persons denied the fact, and stated that they had cut the timber themselves; that it had never been stacked where the complainant alleged, but that it had been stacked at the place where they always put their timber. The Magistrate should have enquired into this complaint. It was a direct charge of theft. If the complainant proved his case, the defendants should have been punished, and the timber restored to the complainant. If, on the other hand, he could not prove his case, it should have been dismissed, and the timber left where it was. The passing of an order under Section 62 was, in fact, not trying the charge at all. I think that the Deputy Magistrate should be directed to try the charge now, as he ought to have done at first.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur.

The 29th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble A.G. Macpherson, F. A. Glover, G. C. Paul, and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Offence under Registration Act—Section 94, Act XX. of 1866.

The Queen *versus* Sheogolam Dass and another, *Appellants.*

Committed by the Joint Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Shahabad, on a charge of abetment of false personation.

Baboo Tarucknath Dutt for Appellants.

In the case of an offence under Section 94 of the Registration Act (XX. of 1866), if a Magistrate thinks that a more severe sentence is necessary than he is competent to inflict under the power vested in him by Act XXV. of 1861, it is competent to him to proceed under Section 226 of that Act, and to commit the accused to the Sessions; and on such committal a Sessions Judge has jurisdiction to deal with the charges, and to convict and sentence the accused, as provided for in the several Sections of Act XX. of 1866.

This case was referred to the Full Bench by Macpherson and Mookerjee, JJ., with the following remarks :—

Macpherson, J.—THE Sessions Judge of Shahabad has found the appellants guilty of having committed an offence under Section 94 of Act XX. of 1866 (the Registration Act), in that they abetted false personation, and has sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment and fine. They were committed by the Joint Magistrate for trial at the Sessions upon the charge on which they were tried and convicted.

They appeal to this Court. We have disposed (unfavourable to the appellants) of all their objections to the conviction and sentence, save one which we refer for the decision of a Full Bench.

The question is whether the conviction ought to be quashed on the ground that the Sessions Judge had no jurisdiction to try the case.

It is contended that, under Section 95 of Act XX. of 1866, the case ought to have been instituted *and tried* before a person exer-

sing the powers of a Magistrate or Subordi-ate Magistrate of the first class, and that the essions Judge had no jurisdiction to try it. n support of this view a decision of a Divi-on Court (Phear and Hobhouse, JJ.) in the se of Assanoollah and others (10 W. R., p. 1, Criminal) is relied on.

But a different construction of the law ems to be contained in a "Criminal Letter" the 18th July 1867, No. 836 (8 W. R., 14, Criminal Letters), issued by Sir Barnes acock, Mr. Justice Loch, Mr. Justice L. S. ckson, and myself. Although the Crimi-l Letter is not a judicial decision, it shows at a conflict of opinion and practice exists; d as the matter is one of some importance, d one in which it is most undesirable that y doubt should exist, we think that it should referred to a Full Bench for a final de-sion.

If the Full Bench shall be of opinion that Sessions Judge has jurisdiction in a case mmitted to the Sessions by a Joint Magis-te, then the conviction and sentence will affirmed; if the Full Bench shall be of inion that the Sessions Judge has not juris-ction under the circumstances, then the viction ought to be quashed, and the soners ought to be released.

he judgments of the Full Bench were deli-vered as follows by—

Norman, C.J.—In this case the prisoners, eogolam Dass and Ramsoonder Dass, were rged with abetting the false personation a witness in registering a kubooleut before Sub-Registrar of Assurances at Buxar. e offence is punishable, under the 94th ction of the Indian Registration Act of 66, with a term of imprisonment which y extend to seven years. In pursuance of provisions of Section 95, the prosecution instituted before the Joint Magistrate, l by him the prisoners were committed trial before the Sessions Judge.

he question before us is whether the sions Judge had authority to try the pri-ers; whether in fact the conviction by the sions Judge ought to be quashed on the ound that he had no jurisdiction. The reference has been made to us in consequence of a decision of Mr. Justice Phear and Mr. Justice Hobhouse, which is to be found in the 10 Weekly Reporter, page 21, in which those learned Judges appear to have held that the whole of the criminal trial under Section 95, from complaint to adjudication on the charge, must be carried on before and by a Magistrate or Subordinate Magistrate of the first class. If that be so, of course the Joint Magistrate had no power to commit the prisoners to the Sessions. We, however, cannot agree in the interpretation which has been put by those two learned Judges upon the word "institute" in the 95th Section of the Indian Registration Act of 1866. We think that the full and true meaning of that word is given by construing it as "*commenced;*" that the Section in question would preclude Deputy Magistrates and others not having the powers of a Magistrate or of a Subordinate Magistrate of the first class from entertaining any charge of an offence under the 94th or other Sections of the Act. Construing the word in that way, we construe it according to its literal and grammatical meaning, and it is evident that such must be the true construction; for on reference to the 21st Section of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is clear that a Magistrate has no power to sentence a prisoner to the full period of imprisonment to which he would be liable under Section 90 and subsequent Sections down to Section 94 of the Registration Act. The 21st Section of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that "the Criminal Courts of the several grades, "according to the powers vested in them "respectively by this Act, shall have *juris-"diction* in respect of offences punishable "under the Indian Penal Code or under "any *special* or local law (except offences "which are by any such law made pun-"ishable by some other authority therein "specially mentioned), and, in the investiga-"tion and trial of the offence hereby declared "to be within their jurisdiction, shall be guid-"ed by the provisions of this Act."

Therefore, the jurisdiction of the Magistrate in respect of an offence under any special law is the same as in respect of an offence punishable under the Penal Code. Now, the Magistrate of a district or other officer authorized to exercise the powers of a Magistrate is only empowered to punish with imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years. Therefore, if we were to construe the word "instituted" as if it was intended to include the whole adjudication upon the charge, we should be construing the Act in a way which would make the 95th Section repugnant to Sections 90, 91, 92, 93, and 94 of the same Act; because the Legislature would first impose a penalty of seven years' imprisonment in certain cases, and then declare that the offence should be triable only by an officer who would not have power under the law to inflict a punishment with imprisonment for a term exceeding two years.

For these reasons I think it perfectly clear that the rule as laid down in a letter No. 836 of 1867, printed in Vol. 8 of the Weekly Reporter, Criminal Letters, page 14, is correct; and that, if the Magistrate thinks that a more severe punishment is necessary than he is competent to inflict under the power conferred on him by Act XXV. of 1861, he should proceed in accordance with Section 226 of that Act to commit the prisoners to the Sessions. We think it clear that on such committal the Sessions Judge has jurisdiction and authority to deal with the charge, and sentence the prisoners as provided for in the several Sections of Act XX. of 1866.

Macpherson, J.—I am of the same opinion. I think that what was said in the letter of the 18th July 1867, which was signed by three other Judges and myself, is correct. The result is, that the conviction and sentence are affirmed, and the appeal is dismissed.

Glover, Paul, and Mookerjee, JJ., concurred.

The 29th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble A. G. Macpherson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

High Court—Original Criminal Jurisdiction—Section 15 of the 24 and 25 Vic., C. 104.

Criminal Motion No. 59 of 1871.

In the Matter of Ameer Khan.

The Government of Bengal, *Petitioner.*

Baboo Unnoda Pershad Banerjee for the Petitioner.

A Judge of the High Court making an order in the original criminal jurisdiction of that Court is not a Court subject to the control of the Court under Section 15 of the 24 and 25 Vic., c. 104.

The petition of the Government of Bengal in this matter was as follows:—

THAT an application was made to the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Loch on Saturday last, representing that Mr. Justice Phear had assumed jurisdiction in an application for the transfer of a criminal case from Patna to Calcutta, and representing that such an application could only be heard by a Bench of the Court appointed under Sections 13 and 14 of the Act of Parliament under which the High Court is constituted.

That the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Loch said that the matter was not in a stage in which their Lordships could interfere, although it might well be that, under rules of the Court already made, such an application should be properly heard by the Fourth Bench of the Court, as appointed to hear motions in criminal matters relating to cases pending in the Patna district; and the Court added that this matter would be properly considered by Mr. Justice Phear.

That this opinion was mentioned to Mr. Justice Phear, and the Advocate-General was heard in opposition to the hearing of the application by the learned Judge, but the Judge decided the other way, and delivered a judgment, the gist of which seems to be that the rules of Court apportioning the business cannot take away the inherent powers of every Judge to exercise the full powers of the Court, but are mere indications of the most convenient course, and that, in the present instance, the most convenient course was that the application should be heard by himself sitting where his Lordship was.

That his Lordship Mr. Justice Phear accordingly directed notice to be served on Mr. O'Kinealy, who has hitherto conducted the case on the part of Government, to show cause why the case should not be transferred from the Sessions Judge of Patna to the High Court for trial in its extraordinary original criminal jurisdiction.

That as it is doubtful if an appeal will lie from Mr. Justice Phear's decision after a final order on the application has been passed, the Government wish to make it clear that it has neglected no means which the law affords of obtaining a hearing before a Bench properly and conveniently constituted. It is submitted that, supposing the High Court has power to remove a case, yet many powers far in excess of those of the late Supreme Court, and some in excess of those of the late Sudder Court, for controlling the administration of justice in the country, generally were given to the High Court as being a Court combining the elements which formed the late Sudder and Supreme Courts; and the contention of Government is that it was never intended to authorize the assumption of a single Judge

sitting in the original jurisdiction to exercise those powers uncontrolled by, or it may be contrary to, the opinions of the Court at large. It is also submitted that, as a matter of fact, the Judges who sit in the original jurisdiction in practice belong to one only of the elements of which the combined Court is composed, and that the exercise of the power assumed by Mr. Justice Phear is contrary to the whole spirit and intention of the Acts and Charters by which the Court is constituted. On these grounds the Government trust that the Court will take the question into consideration, both with reference to the matter pending before Mr. Justice Phear, and in order to guide the Judge of Patna, before whom the case is appointed to come on immediately, and in whose Court a host of witnesses are cited to appear.

Judgment of the High Court.

Norman, C.J.—I am of opinion that the Court cannot interfere with Mr. Justice Phear's decision in the case of Ameer Khan, unless that decision can be called in question in a formal and regular way. We have been asked to interpose our authority, which it is suggested that the Court possesses under Section 15 of the 24 and 25 Vic., Cap. 104. But Mr. Justice Phear, a Judge of the High Court, making an order in the Original Criminal Jurisdiction of that Court, is not a Court subject to our control under Section 15.

Macpherson and Mookerjee, JJ., were of the same opinion.

The 29th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Discharge—Committal—Section 435, Act VIII. of 1869.

The Queen *versus* Sreenath Dey, *Appellant*.

Committed by the Deputy Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Jessore, on a charge of rioting armed with deadly weapons.

Mr. C. Piffard and *Babu Aushootosh Dhur* for the Appellant.

The discharge by a Deputy Magistrate of a person charged with an offence triable only by a Court of Session is no bar to the Sessions Judge ordering the committal of such person to the Sessions under Section 435, Act VIII. of 1869.

Norman, C.J.—THE prisoner was put on his trial before Baboo Cally Prosunno Sircar, Deputy Magistrate of Bagirhat, upon a charge of rioting armed with deadly weapons, under Section 148. He was acquitted by the Deputy Magistrate. The Judge, under Section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, ordered the commitment of the prisoner to the Court of Session, notwithstanding such acquittal. The prisoner, on being tried by the Court of Session, was convicted upon a charge under Section 149—that being a member of an unlawful assembly, in prosecution of the common object of which one of the members voluntarily caused grievous hurt by means of a dangerous weapon to one Bangshi otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation, he thereby committed an offence punishable under Sections 326 and 149.

The prisoner has appealed.

Mr. Piffard for the prisoner objected in the first instance that, having been acquitted by the Deputy Magistrate, the Sessions Judge had no power under Section 435 of Act VIII. of 1869 to direct the committal of the prisoner.

The answer to that is that the charge under Section 148, upon which the prisoner was put on his trial before the Deputy Magistrate, is one which is only triable before the Court of Session; and I may observe that the charges which the evidence taken before the Magistrate would have properly sustained, *viz.*, those on which he was tried before the Judge, *viz.*, the charges under Sections 149 and 326, are triable by the Court of Session only.

The Deputy Magistrate had no jurisdiction to try the prisoner; and therefore, notwithstanding the order of the Deputy Magistrate, the prisoner cannot be treated as a person who has been acquitted by a Court having jurisdiction to try him.

I think there was nothing in the Deputy Magistrate's order discharging the prisoner, which he calls an acquittal, to prevent the Judge from ordering the committal of the prisoner under Section 435 of Act VIII. of 1869.

Mr. Piffard next attempted to show that there were discrepancies in the evidence, and that the story told by the witnesses for the prosecution is incredible.

It is certainly a strange tale. The prisoner and one Mudden Deb have a quarrel about the right to some land in Puttiakhali. The prosecutor has taken a pottah from Mudden Deb. The prisoner and his party in three boats overtaking the prosecutor, Bangshi Paramanick, who was in a boat with two other persons, one of them a chowkeedar, called out to Bangshi to stop and listen to him. The prisoner said to Bangshi, "You must give me a kubooleut." Bangshi said, "Why should I give you a kubooleut?" The prisoner said, "You must." Bangshi, refused. Kala Chand, the chowkeedar, said, "Why should we give kubooleuts?" The prisoner and Gopinath ordered their men to seize Bangshi. One Dedar lifted up a spear to strike Kala Chand chowkeedar, who jumped into the water. The witnesses, Kishore and Doorgachurn Haldar, say that Bangshi then went on to the middle of his boat with a paddle, and was crying out, "Who will beat?" Then two men, named Choti Sikdar and Nazim Mollah, speared Bangshi; and Roffi Mahomed, in like manner, wounded Kishore. There was an outcry that a man was killed, and the prisoner's men rowed the boat away with Bangshi and Kishore. After being detained two or three days at the house of Gopinath, a dependant of the prisoner Sreenath, the wounded men were carried back, and left in a deserted homestead belonging to Doorgachurn Haldar. The riot took place on the 27th of August. The chowkeedar made his complaint at the thannah on the following day. It was not till Monday, the 29th, that the wounded men were found lying in the deserted house of Doorgachurn. The native doctor, who was absent at the Sessions when they were first discovered, saw them on the 31st. He found that the hurt sustained by Bangshi was of a most serious character; that he would probably never get over it.

The Judge records that the leg of Bangshi is so bent in consequence of the injury sustained that he can only touch the ground with his toe; that he walks by the aid of a stick with great difficulty; and that getting up a small step into the witness-box evidently caused him great pain.

We concur with the Judge and assessors in thinking that the evidence establishes the guilt of the prisoner. The sentence of three years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rupees 300 to be realized from the property of the prisoner, who in default of payment is to suffer further rigorous imprisonment for one year, appears proper.

The 29th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Public servant—Section 228, Penal Code.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Magistrate of Cuttack.

The Queen *versus* Hurri Kishen Doss, *Police Inspector.*

Before a conviction can be had under Section 228 of the Penal Code of offering an insult to a public servant, it must be proved that there was an *intention* to insult.

Glover, J.—We think that the order of the Assistant Magistrate must be set aside. He has convicted the Inspector of Police under Section 228 of "intentionally" offering an insult to him, the Assistant Magistrate, a public servant "sitting at the time in a stage of a judicial proceeding," in that the Inspector ordered certain policemen, whose presence was necessary in the Assistant Magistrate's Court, to attend there without their uniform belts.

These belts we observe had been ordered by the Inspector-General of Police to be sent into the Sudder Station of Cuttack for inspection, and this was the reason given by the Inspector to the Assistant Magistrate for the absence of this portion of the policemen's accoutrements.

That any officer of Government should have, under the circumstances, taken offence at the conduct of the Inspector, is a matter of considerable surprise to us; but without commenting on the Assistant Magistrate's conduct in this particular, or on the somewhat remarkable explanation which he submitted to the Magistrate of his district, we have no hesitation in saying that the order imposing the fine was not warranted by Section 228 of the Penal Code.

The admitted facts show that there could have been no "intention to insult" on the part of the Police Inspector, inasmuch as he was merely carrying out the lawful orders of his immediate superior, orders which originated in the Inspector-General of Police him-

self; and, if there was no "intention," there could have been no conviction.

The mere fact of there being other belts available which the police put on after the fine was imposed has manifestly nothing to do with proving a prior intention to insult on the part of the Inspector. If it proves anything at all, it shows a desire on the part of that official to meet the Assistant Magistrate's wishes directly he knew that his previous conduct had been ill taken.

The 29th April 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. A. Glover, *Judge.*

Procedure—Confessions—Section 205, Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Queen *versus* Bhikaree, *Appellant.*

Committed by the Assistant Commissioner, and tried by the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, on a charge of attempting to commit murder.

Points out the importance of properly recording and attesting the confessions of prisoners under Section 205 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

THE prisoner has confessed all along that he wounded the woman, and has justified himself by the fact that she was keeping his father's property away from him.

The only point in this appeal is whether the offence proved was an attempt at murder. The prisoner in his defence at the Sessions denies that he had any intention to kill; but intentions are to be presumed from acts, and as in this case the prisoner used a highly lethal weapon, and inflicted at least one dangerous wound, his intention to kill may fairly be presumed. Moreover, by Section 307, Penal Code, he would be rightly convicted if the act done was done under circumstances that, if the act caused death, the offence would be murder. In this case there can be no doubt that, had the woman been killed under the circumstances of the prisoner's act, the prisoner would have been guilty of murder. The appeal is rejected.

I desire to notice the informal way in which the Assistant Commissioner has recorded the prisoner's confessions. By Section 205 of the Procedure Code, a Magistrate is bound to attest such examination by his signature, and to certify under his own hand that it was taken in his presence and in his hearing, and that it contains accurately the whole of the statement made by the accused person. In this case there is neither attestation nor certificate. There is an unreadable initial only appended to what purports to be the accused's statement; and, had not there been other evidence on this point, the omission on the part of the Assistant Commissioner would have been fatal to the conviction under Section 307. As the accused repeated his confession, so far as the wounding went, to the Judicial Commissioner, and as his intention is presumable from the nature of his acts, no harm has been done; but the result might have been otherwise, and the Judicial Commissioner is requested to impress on his subordinates the necessity of a strict adherence to the forms of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The 2nd May 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, A. G. Macpherson, G. C. Paul, and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Appellate Court—Subordinate Court—Sanction to prosecution—Sections 111, 169, 171, 422, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Sessions Judge of Nuddea.

The Queen *versus* Buktear Maifaraz.

When an Appellate Court directs further evidence to be taken by a Subordinate Court under Section 422 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is competent to the Subordinate Court before which such evidence is given, if any offence against public justice as described in Section 169 is committed before such Court by a witness whose evidence is being recorded therein, to send the case for investigation to a Magistrate under the provisions of Section 171.

The words "whether for the decision of such cases in "the first instance or on appeal, or for commitment to "any other Court or Officer," in Section 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, are not intended as an exhaustive enumeration of the functions of Criminal Courts.

Reference by the Sessions Judge.—It appears that the offence with which the prisoner stands charged in this case arose out of a deposition before the Assistant Magistrate of Meherpore, taken under orders of the District Magistrate in his appellate capacity. The Assistant Magistrate, considering there were grounds for suspecting perjury in prisoner when giving evidence before him, held a preliminary enquiry under Section 171, and made over the prisoner to the District Magistrate for investigation of the charge preliminary to commitment. The Magistrate, on receipt of the record, sent it back to Meherpore for investigation by Babu Peary Mohun Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate of that station. In passing this order, the Magistrate was not acting in his appellate capacity, but as a Criminal Court to which another Court has referred a charge of perjury for investigation. There is nothing whatever to show that the records were before him at the time, or that he was exercising any discretion on the propriety or otherwise of ordering a criminal judicial investigation. The question before him appears to have been simply this: "What Magistrate should hold the investigation?" In choosing a Magistrate (which as a District Magistrate he had a right to do), he very properly selected a Deputy Magistrate other than the complaining Officer, the Assistant in charge of the sub-division; but the Deputy Magistrate left the station before the order could be carried out, and the Sub-divisional Officer referred the matter for further orders, when the District Magistrate passed the order that "there is no reason why the case should not be investigated by the Sub-divisional Officer;" and so it returned to the latter, who then held a criminal judicial investigation, and committed the prisoner to the Sessions on a charge of perjury.

It is contended that, though the Assistant Magistrate, acting under orders of the Appellate Court in taking the prisoner's deposition on oath, was holding a judicial proceeding (Explanation 3 to Section 193), he had no power to record any judgment upon it, and that he was consequently not sitting as "a Court" within the meaning of Section 171.

I think this objection perfectly sound. It clearly rested with the Court which, on a view of the whole case, was to form an opinion upon the deposition of each witness, to say whether any one of them should be put to his trial for perjury under Section 171. The Appellate Court to which the evidence was certified might, if it had considered the evidence, have taken the same view as the Assistant, or it might have taken a more favorable view.

What the opinion of the Appellate Court in this instance was is not on record. It is contended that the two orders of the District Magistrate above quoted do amount to an approval, *i. e.*, to such "sanction" as is required by Section 169. It is possible that the District Magistrate may have read the records containing the Assistant's preliminary enquiry" before passing the order. But if he had done so with a view to consider the Assistant's opinion, the orders in question must have been passed on the records of the appellate case; or, if recorded elsewhere by error, they must have contained some expression of opinion or approval. But, as I have said, there is no such opinion expressed, and the reference on which the order was passed shows that none was required.

The Government Vakeel offers to get the sanction of the Appellate Court now. But if the entertainment of the charge by the District Magistrate (who was apparently the first officer who entertained it) was without authority, the commitment cannot now be made valid by obtaining the sanction of the Appellate Court. The words "at any time" in Section 169 must surely be read together with the word "entertain," and must be held to mean at any time early enough to justify the entertainment.

It occurs to me that, if the Appellate Court had expressed an opinion upon view of the records of the preliminary enquiry (which records were certainly under the hand of the District Magistrate), it would have been perhaps legal for him to adopt the enquiry made, and to pass the order for investigation. There is nothing in the law to restrict the Court against whom the perjury was committed as to the nature, procedure, or extent of the preliminary enquiry; and I am not prepared to say that perusal of the Assistant's notes of his own enquiry would not have been sufficient ground of action for the District Magistrate.

But I think it so clear that this was not the course followed by the District Magistrate, that I do not think it necessary to send the papers to the Assistant Magistrate for explanation.

The commitment-order under the above circumstances I consider illegal, and I would therefore respectfully suggest that it may be cancelled. The prisoner has been placed on bail, but is unable, I understand, to give it.

The judgment of the Full Bench of the High Court was delivered as follows by—

Norman, C. J.—The Magistrate of Nuddea, on hearing an appeal against the decision of an Assistant Magistrate, directed a further enquiry, and that additional evidence should be taken by the Assistant Magistrate under Section 422 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. While taking evidence in pursuance of that direction, the Assistant Magistrate, being of opinion that a witness who was examined before him had given false evidence, sent the case for investigation to the Magistrate, assuming to act under the provisions of Section 171. The accused person was ultimately committed to the Court of Session. But the Sessions Judge doubts the legality of the commitment, and has referred the case to this Court under Section 434 in order that the commitment may be quashed.

We think that, when an Appellate Court directs further evidence to be taken by a Subordinate Court under Section 422 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is competent to the Subordinate Court before which such evidence is given, if any offence against public justice as described in Section 169 is committed before such Court by a witness whose evidence is being recorded therein, to send the case for investigation to a Magistrate under the provisions of Section 171.

We think that the Assistant Magistrate, to whom the case was sent back, and before whom the evidence in the present case was taken, was lawfully exercising jurisdiction in a criminal case. The words, "whether "for the decision of such cases in the first "instance or on appeal, or for commitment "to any other Court or Officer," in Section 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, are not, in our opinion, intended as an exhaustive enumeration of the functions of Criminal Courts.

The jurisdiction of the Assistant Magistrate was that of a judicial officer exercising a particular function, not merely an authority delegated to him by the Magistrate.

The trial must therefore proceed.

The 3rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and G. C. Paul, *Judges.*

Murder—Capital sentence—Pregnancy.

The Queen *versus* Panhee Aurut, Appellant.

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Rungpore, on a charge of murder.

Capital sentence should be pronounced on a conviction for murder even if the accused be pregnant, although the execution of the sentence should be deferred till after delivery.

Bayley, J.—There is no ground to interfere on this appeal. Indeed, the appeal itself is mainly on the ground that the prisoner's sentence will prevent her supporting her family. The Sessions Judge did not pass a capital sentence, because the prisoner was pregnant when committed; but this of itself is no legal ground for not *pronouncing* the capital sentence of the law, although the *execution* of it is deferred till after delivery.

The appeal is rejected.

Paul, J.—I concur. I consider the conviction correct, and I think the Sessions Judge has assigned a reason which is not a legal one, as pointed out by Mr. Justice Bayley, for not passing capital sentence.

The 5th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Magistrate's record.

The Queen *versus* Kasim Ali and others, Appellants.

Committed by the Magistrate, and tried by the Sessions Judge of Chittagong, on a charge of giving false evidence.

Mr. M. L. Sandel for the Appellants.

The Magistrate's record of the proceedings prior to commitment should always be forwarded to the High Court.

Jackson, J.—We have no doubt as to the guilt of the prisoners, and shall not, therefore, interfere with their conviction, or with the sentences passed upon them. The proceedings might, on some points, have been conducted with greater precision, as pointed out by the pleader for the prisoners; but we are not satisfied that the prisoners have been in any way prejudiced by the irregularities in question. The sanction which was obtained from the Judge to the prosecution might have been more clearly worded. The charges are unnecessarily prolix, and contain much irrelevant matter. They should only have contained the sentences of the prisoners' deposition which related to the payment of the money and the giving of the receipt—the points on which the perjury is charged. There has been some difficulty in proving what each prisoner said, the depositions having been taken down by the former Judge who has left the station. But the record has been proved and the handwriting and signature of the Judge, and there is other independent evidence. I have no doubt that the prisoners gave the depositions. It seems to me important that the record of these depositions should be made by law *primâ facie* evidence that they were given as recorded. Formerly, when the depositions were recorded in the vernacular, the Bengalee mohurrir who wrote them down could be called to attest them; but they are now recorded by the Judge in English, and, if he has left the station, there must always be a difficulty in procuring his evidence. This would be obviated by declaring his record of the deposition to be *primâ-facie* evidence.

The Sessions Judge of Chittagong did not forward to this Court the record of the proceedings prior to commitment in the Magistrate's Court, and he has explained that he did not do so, because he is of opinion that these were not evidence in the case. It seems to me immaterial whether they are evidence or not. The practice has always been to forward the record, and the Judge has no authority to change the practice without special orders or sanction from this Court. It frequently happens that some portions of the Magistrate's record are evidence on the Sessions trial; and, as happened on this occasion, portions of the evidence, being on the record of other cases, were not taken out and incorporated with the Sessions record, as it should be. The Magistrate's record is also frequently required by this Court to ascertain if all the evidence bearing on the case has been recorded, and the Sessions Judge will find great assistance in conducting trials in serious cases from the police-record also. But the Magistrate's record must always be forwarded to this Court under the present practice.

The 6th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

Jurisdiction—Obstruction—Thoroughfare—Section 308, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(Miscellaneous Case.)

Becharam Bhuttacharjee and others, *Petitioners.*

Baboo Khetter Mohun Mookerjee for the Petitioners.

In the case of a complaint under Section 308 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the removal of an obstruction from a thoroughfare, a Magistrate should first enquire if the road is a public one or not. If he finds in the affirmative, he has jurisdiction to proceed; if in the negative, he should withhold his hand, and abstain from carrying out the order for removal of the obstruction.

Loch, J.—We think that we cannot interfere with the order made by the Lower Court in this case.

Where parties come in under the provisions of Section 308 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and ask for the removal of an obstruction from a thoroughfare, it is the province of the Magistrate to determine whether the road referred to by the complainant is or is not a thoroughfare, and on determining this point he has jurisdiction to proceed under the provisions of the Section above referred to; and the province of the Jury seems to be merely to determine the propriety or otherwise of carrying out the order made by the Magistrate on the defendant, after he (the Magistrate) has found that he has jurisdiction to make such order. Should the Magistrate, however, before passing a final order, come to the conclusion that he has committed an error in considering the road to be a public road, and that he has reason to believe, either from the evidence or from any personal enquiry, that the road is not a public road, we think that he would be right in holding his hand, and abstaining from carrying out the order for removal of the obstruction. This is what the Deputy Magistrate appears to have done in the present case. We think, therefore, that his order must be upheld, and the application rejected.

The 8th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Examination of accused—Attestation of Magistrate—Evidence—Sections 205 and 366, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 404 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Magistrate of Hooghly.

The Queen *versus* Goshto Lall Dutt.

It is not necessary, under Section 205 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to state in the body of the examination of the accused that the statement comprises every question put to the accused and every answer given by him, or that they were recorded in full and read to him, and that he had full liberty to add to or explain his answers. The Magistrate's attestation at the foot of the examination, when duly recorded in the terms of that Section, is sufficient *primâ-facie* evidence of such examination, unless the Sessions Judge doubts the genuineness of the Magistrate's signature, in which case he should take evidence on that point. The examination of the accused, properly recorded, is evidence, and should be allowed to go to the Jury under Section 366 of the Code.

Glover, J.—THIS case was sent for by the Court on a reference made by the Officiating Magistrate of Hooghly.

I may premise that, in accordance with at least three rulings of this Court (Queen *versus* Chunder Kant Chuckerbutty, 10 Weekly Reporter, p. 14; Queen *versus* Gora Chand Gopal, 5 Weekly Reporter, p. 48; and Queen *versus* Gora Ghand Ghose, 11 Weekly Reporter, p. 29, the last being a Full Bench case), a verdict of acquittal by a Jury, although given in consequence of a misdirection on the part of the Sessions Judge, cannot be interfered with under Section 404, Code of Criminal Procedure.

I think it right, however, to express my opinion that the Judge did misdirect the Jury in this case. He told them to "exclude "from their minds anything they had heard "relating to a confession or statement made "before the Magistrate, because the statement, not being admissible in evidence, had "not been placed before them." Now, Section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Code describes how the examination of an accused person is to be taken, and how, after being taken, it is to be attested by the signature of the Magistrate, who is to certify under his own hand that it was taken "in his presence "and in his hearing, and contains accurately "the whole of the statement made by the "accused person." There is nothing in the Section that makes it necessary to state in the body of the examination (as supposed by the Sessions Judge) that the statement comprised every question put to the accused, and every answer given by him; that they were recorded in full, and read to him; and that he had liberty to add to or explain his answers, &c., &c. The attestation at the foot of the examination, when duly recorded in the terms of the Section, is sufficient proof that the accused had the proper opportunities given to him of testing whether what was recorded had been made conformable to what he declared to be the truth; and as, in this case, the Magistrate's attestation is in the exact words of the law, nothing else was, as it seems to me, required. The statement of the accused, as it stood on the record, was perfectly legal evidence, and ought to have been laid before the Jury.

The ruling in Queen *versus* Mussumat Niruni, 7 Weekly Reporter, p. 49, quoted by the Sessions Judge in support of his opinion, does not, I think, apply to this case at all. There the statement of the accused

was not attested by the Magistrate's signature, and there was consequently no guarantee that the provisions of Section 205, Code of Criminal Procedure, had been in any way complied with. The Judges in that case said: "We do not think it proper to admit as evidence against the accused an examination which appears to have been recorded with such utter disregard of the forms prescribed by law as that of Moniruddeen in the present case." I was one of the Judges in question, and retain the opinion then expressed. A strict observance of the law in all matters relating to confessions is in the highest degree necessary, but in the present case all the provisions of Section 205 have been fully complied with.

With reference to the second point referred by the Officiating Magistrate, it seems to me that the Magistrate's attestation at the foot of the examination was sufficient *primâ-facie* evidence that everything had been legally and properly done, and that neither threats nor promises had been used. If, however, the Sessions Judge had doubts on this point, he should have cleared them up by taking evidence as to the manner in which the accused's statement was recorded.

Kemp, J.—I entirely concur. There has, in my opinion, been a clear failure of justice in this case, owing to the Judge's misdirection to the Jury. The provisions of Section 205 have been strictly complied with in this case, and the examination of the accused ought to have been admitted in evidence at the trial under Section 366. The attestation of the Magistrate, which is in the proper form, was sufficient *primâ-facie* evidence of such examination, and the Judge, if he doubted the genuineness of the Magistrate's signature, was bound to take evidence on that point. I think the Judge is wrong, and the Officiating Magistrate is perfectly right in his view of the law.

The 11th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. B. Phear, A. G. Macpherson, and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

High Court—Jurisdiction—Transfer of criminal cases—Section 29, Charter of High Court—Section 35, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Rule Nisi in the Matter of

Ameer Khan and Hashmadad Khan, *Petitioners.*

The Advocate-General (Graham) and *the Officiating Standing Counsel (Wilkinson)* for the Government.

Ingram and Evans for the Petitioners.

The High Court has power, under Section 29 of its Letters Patent, to transfer a criminal case from a Court in the Mofussil for trial before itself.

The mere possibility or probability that difficult questions, whether of law or of fact, will arise, is no reason for transferring a case under Section 29, there being a sufficient remedy provided in the right of appeal to the High Court.

Per Macpherson, J.—It is under Section 35 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and under that Section alone, that the High Court ought to order the transfer of criminal cases from one Court to another, except in very special cases (indicated).

Phear, J.—THE two prisoners, on whose behalf the present application to this Court is made, are now awaiting their trial before the Sessions Court at Patna on various charges, which the Joint Magistrate at Patna, after duly holding a preliminary investigation, has preferred against them; in other words, the cases of the prisoners are criminal cases pending for trial at the Sessions Court at Patna, and the object of the application is to obtain the transfer of the case from the Sessions Court to this Court for trial.

The transfer is sought under the provisions of Section 29 of the Letters Patent of this Court, which says: "And we do further ordain that the said High Court shall have power to direct the transfer of any criminal case or appeal from any Court to any other Court of equal or superior jurisdiction, and also to direct the preliminary investigation or trial of any criminal case by any Officer or Court otherwise competent to investigate or try it, though

such case belongs, in ordinary course, to the jurisdiction of some other Officer or Court."

The Advocate-General, on behalf of the prosecution, in the first place, urges that this Section 29 does not confer on the Court the power to make such a transfer as this. The Advocate-General, as I understand his argument, urges that this Court, in its character of a Court exercising criminal jurisdiction over the town of Calcutta, is a distinct Court, *sui generis*, and is not so related to the Criminal Courts of the Mofussil as to fall within the scope of the words of Section 29, "any other Court of equal or superior jurisdiction." It appears to me that we cannot give effect to this argument without sanctioning a distinction of parts in the High Court which has no reality, and thus giving currency to an error which may become fertile in mischievous results. The High Court is endowed with extensive (I may say exalted) jurisdiction, embracing in its ambit various subjects or topics, and is described in the Letters Patent under various heads. The Judges of whom the Court is composed are numerous, and the Legislature has empowered the Court by its own rules (I am now quoting Section 13 of the Charter Act) to "provide for the exercise, by one or more Judges, or by Division Courts constituted by two or more Judges of the said High Court, of the original and appellate jurisdiction vested in such Court, in such manner as may appear to such Court to be convenient for the due administration of justice." The Court has availed itself of this power, and does exercise its power, as we know, by single Judges, and Division Courts consisting of two or more Judges. The rules of the Court by which this is done are perhaps little systematic, and certainly have not been framed with any view to the particular point upon which the present objection depends. It is not necessary for me now to discuss those rules, and I do not now propose in any way to review them. Nothing in them, however, as I understand them, gives favor to the present contention; for that would require that the effect of the rule should be to confer on each particular Bench of this Court a portion only of the jurisdiction of this Court. And it seems to me that there are only two ways in which this could be done, namely, either by deputing to each Bench a portion of jurisdiction by express words of limitation, or by assigning to it work locally or otherwise defined, and delegating to it only so much and such limited jurisdiction as may be needed for that work. Now, assuredly, the rules bearing on this matter have never been understood as operating in either of these directions. It is within our daily experience that a Division Bench of the Court, whose work is defined by local limits, takes up and disposes of work which in the same way belongs to another Bench. And in many other modes work is being constantly done without question, which, I apprehend, would be without authority and legal efficacy, if the view which has been contended for before us were correct. And see what the result would be. The High Court rarely sits as a whole. Only once in the whole course of my experience has it done so. The result would be that, instead of one High Court, we should have a group of Courts, each of imperfect and ill-defined limited jurisdiction. This, I think, would offer every sort of opportunity for uncertainty whether or not any particular matter of litigation had been decided by competent authority. This would be a wretched state of things, and one not likely to have been intended, but rather very foreign to the mind of the Legislature which amalgamated the Sudder and Supreme Courts. And I think there is nothing in the words of Section 13 of the Charter Act which would warrant such a limited deputation of jurisdiction to a Division Court in this fashion. I need not now say anything as to the distribution of work and the disposal by the Division Benches of the business which is actually brought before them. But I come, without any sort of hesitation, to the conclusion that this Court, when engaged in administering criminal justice within the district of Calcutta under its ordinary criminal jurisdiction, is none other than the High Court itself. It is the High Court discharging one of its proper functions; it is not merely the High Court in some (to me not very conceivable) inferior capacity. If this be so, the application to remove this criminal case from the Sessions Court at Patna into this Court to be tried by virtue of its criminal jurisdiction seems to me to be an application made precisely within the words of Section 29. As regards the Sessions Court at Patna, the High Court is unquestionably a Court of superior jurisdiction. Why, then, are we to say that we have not the power under that Section to make the transfer which is sought?

In the first place, the Advocate-General says that, supposing the words of Section 29 are large enough to comprehend this Court, yet the situation of the Section relatively to other Sections is such that it cannot be reasonably supposed that those words were intended to have the fullest signification. I thought that there was considerable force in Mr. Evans's answer to this objection, and a closer survey

of the Letters Patent makes that answer more forcible than appeared at first sight; because I think it very apparent that the different Clauses of the Letters Patent have been very inartistically framed and put together, and in truth that the Letters were drawn without any great completeness of purpose.

But I am not even prepared to take the view that the Clause authorizing the transfer of a criminal case into this Court would be inaptly placed in the position which Section 29 occupies. By the nature of Mr. Advocate-General's argument, he admits that the Clause is rightly placed for the purpose of giving power to this Court to transfer cases from the local District Court to another District Court. If that be so, I see nothing inapt in including in the same Section a power to transfer to this Court. If the power to transfer to this Court is needed at all, it is needed for reasons amongst others which would render it right and proper to transfer cases from one local Court to another.

If such reasons existed for the transfer from the district of the 24-Pergunnahs into another district, why should the power to transfer it into this district for those reasons be absent? It seems to me to be quite unintelligible. For instance, to take the case given by the late Chief Justice in the case of *Nobodeep Chunder Gossamee*,* that this Court should have the power of transferring the trial of criminal cases from the Court of the 24-Pergunnahs to any other district of Bengal upon grounds of convenience, if convenience ex-

* The 8th April 1868.†

Present:

The Hon'ble Sir Barnes Peacock, *Kt., Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble J. P. Norman and W. Markby, *Judges*.

The Queen *versus* Nobodeep Chunder Gossamee and others.

The Standing Counsel (Eglinton) for the Crown.

Newmarch and Woodroffe for the accused.

THE accused in this case were committed for trial on a charge, under Section 412, of retaining stolen property, to wit, a Government currency note for Rupees 1,000; and the first prisoner was also charged under Section 465 with dishonestly and fraudulently making a false document, that is to say, a false endorsement or receipt for interest on the said Government currency note; and further, under Section 471, with dishonestly using as genuine the said forged document knowing it to be forged. The offences charged were committed at Calcutta, but the preliminary investigation was conducted by Mr. Ryland, Deputy Magistrate of Serampore and Justice of the Peace, who committed the accused for trial before the High Court at Calcutta.

[† The judgments in this case are given *in extenso*, as the case is an important one, not only as to the construction of Section 29 of the Charter, but also as regards other points of law and procedure which were raised and decided in it.]

† The prisoners were tried and convicted at the criminal sessions of the High Court before Markby, J., but the prisoners' Counsel having raised certain points of law, and having moved in arrest of judgment, Markby, J., reserved the points, which came on for argument before Peacock, C.J., and Norman and Markby, JJ. The arguments on the points reserved, and on the motion in arrest of judgment, were addressed to the Court on separate days, and the Court delivered separate judgments on each day.

The following are the judgments which were delivered on the first day on the points reserved:—

Peacock, C.J.—Upon the two questions which have been argued before us I entertain no doubt.

The first relates to the answer given to the police-constable when he arrested the prisoner. The answer did not amount to a confession of guilt, but was a statement of facts, which, if true, showed that the prisoner was innocent. It was not a confession obtained under an inducement of hope or fear. The only objection to the statement being admissible in evidence is, that it was made in answer to a question which was put by the police-officer.

The cases upon this subject in England are conflicting; but the later cases seem to show that statements made by a prisoner in answer to a question put by a police-officer are admissible in evidence.

In the Queen and Berriman, 6 Cox's Criminal Cases, page 388, Mr. Justice Erle refused to admit as evidence an answer given by a prisoner to a question put to him by a Magistrate; and a similar ruling by Chief Justice Wilde is to be found in the case of the Queen and Pettit in the 4th Volume of Cox's Criminal Cases, page 164.

But in a later case, the Queen and Cheverton, 2 Foster and Finlayson, page 833, Chief Justice Erle admitted as evidence against the prisoner a statement which she had made in answer to a question put to her by a police-officer. In that case, it appeared that Baxter, a police-officer, had said to the prisoner, "You had better tell me all about it; it will save trouble," and then put certain questions to the prisoner, which she answered. It was held that the answers given to Baxter were inadmissible, because they had been made under the influence of something in the nature of a threat or inducement. Afterwards another police-officer put questions to the prisoner which she answered, and it was objected that those answers were inadmissible, inasmuch as they had been made under the inducement held out by the former police-officer. Chief Justice Erle, after consulting Mr. Justice Wightman, admitted the statements made to the second police-officer, holding, as I suppose, that the answers were not given in consequence of the inducements held out by the first officer. That is a distinct authority that statements made by a prisoner in answer to questions put by a police-officer are admissible; and it may be remarked that in that case the answers were held to be admissible, though the prisoner had not been cautioned.

In the case of the Queen and Mick, 3 Foster and Finlayson, p. 342, it was held by Mr. Justice Mellor that a confession made by a prisoner in answer to a question put to him by a police-officer was admissible.

A similar decision will be found in 1 Moody's Crown Cases, page 27, in which it was held that a confession obtained without threat or promise from a boy 14 years

isted, and yet should not have the same power to remove the case into this Court across Circular Road, even though the reasons of convenience were ten-fold stronger. It appears to me that there are classes of cases in which the transfer of criminal trials to this Court might require to be made upon grounds exactly similar to those which would justify

old, by questions put to him by a police-officer in whose custody the boy was on a charge of felony, and when the boy had had no food for nearly a whole day, was properly received as evidence against him. That was held by six Judges to three upon a point reserved. The majority held that the confession was rightly received, as no threat or promise had been made.

Mr. Justice Mellor, in the case of the Queen and Mick, to which I have referred, remarked that many Judges would not receive the evidence, and that he highly disapproved of the course which the police officer had adopted in asking questions.

Having these contradictory decisions before us, I should be disposed to act upon the decision given in the case reserved, even if it were not borne out by every principle of common sense.

If an inducement is held out to a prisoner to make a confession by telling him that he will be better off if he makes a confession, he may be induced, if he knows that circumstances are strong to lead to a presumption of guilt, to make a confession, although he is innocent. There may be reasonable grounds against the admission of such a confession, though perhaps it would be better to admit it, and to leave those who have to determine as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoner to judge of the weight which ought to be attached to it.

The object of the criminal law is to punish the guilty for the purpose of deterring them and others from committing offences. The object of the law of procedure, including the law of evidence, is or ought to be that the innocent shall be protected, and the guilty punished. I cannot, therefore, agree at all in the remarks of Mr. Justice Mellor, and in the expression of his disapproval of the conduct assumed by a police-officer in asking questions, provided he does not hold out hope or fear as an inducement to confess.

Some cases have gone to the extent of saying that a statement is not admissible, if it is obtained by telling the prisoner that he had better tell the truth. For my own part, I cannot see any objection to telling every man that he had better tell the truth; but that is very different from telling a man that he had better confess, when you do not know whether he is innocent or guilty.

Though it has been held in some cases that confessions obtained by asking questions are not admissible, and although law is said to be the perfection of reason, it has been distinctly ruled in England, and I believe without a dissentient voice, that confessions obtained by artifice or deception are admissible. Therefore, where a confession was obtained by a person who took an oath that he would never mention what the prisoner told him, the statement made, when disclosed, was held to be admissible.

So, where it appeared that one of the prisoners had made a statement to a constable whilst he was drunk, and it was imputed to the constable that he had given him liquor to cause him to be so, the statement was held to be admissible in evidence against the prisoner, the statement not having been made under the inducement of hope or fear.—*See* the cases collected in Roscoe on Evidence in Criminal Cases, p. 47.

It is high time, I think, that we should decide according to principles which are founded on reason and good sense. I therefore hold that what the prisoner said in answer to questions put to him by the police-officer was admissible, no threat or deception having been used, or any false hope held out.

The other question remaining is, whether statements made in answer to questions put by a Justice of the Peace or a Magistrate are admissible against the prisoner.

I do not wish to put this question upon any technical ground. Section 202 of the Code of Criminal Procedure says that it shall be in the discretion of the Magistrate, from time to time, at any stage of the enquiry, to examine the accused person, and to put such questions to him as he may consider necessary, and it shall be in the option of the accused person to answer such questions. It does not appear whether Mr. Ryland was acting as a Deputy Magistrate, or in his character as a Justice of the Peace, when the charge was first brought before him. I have no doubt that answers given by a prisoner to questions put by a Magistrate under Section 202 are admissible in evidence, although the Magistrate may omit to inform the prisoner what the law is, and that he is not bound to answer the questions. I apprehend that any statement which is made by a prisoner in answer to such a question is admissible against him, not only in regard to cases within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate, or bearing upon the case before the Magistrate, but also with regard to other offences of which the prisoner might be charged in another Court.

For instance, if a prisoner were apprehended at Howrah upon a charge of murder at Howrah, and if the policeman should say, "When the prisoner saw me coming up dressed as a police-officer, he immediately ran away;"—suppose the Magistrate should ask the prisoner, "Why did you run away when you saw a police-officer," and he were to say, "I had stolen some money from A B in Calcutta. I had just crossed the ferry, and when I saw the policeman coming up, I thought he was going to take me into custody for stealing the money, and therefore I ran away," that statement, being made in answer to a lawful question put to him by the Magistrate, would, I have no doubt, be evidence against the prisoner, if he were acquitted of the murder, and indicted at the Sessions in Calcutta for stealing the money.

I have no doubt, therefore, that what the prisoner said to the Magistrate would, in this case, be admissible against him, even if the questions put by the Magistrate were put whilst he was acting in his character as a Magistrate.

But, as I said before, I do not wish to put this case upon a technical ground; and I will assume, therefore, that Mr. Ryland was acting throughout as a Justice of the Peace for Bengal with reference to an offence committed in Calcutta.

There is not much difference as regards the common-sense point of view between statements made in answer to questions put by Mr. Ryland as a Justice of the Peace, and statements made in answer to questions put by the police-officer, assuming it to be true that the statements were made. There would, however, be this difference, that when the questions were put by the Magistrate, the prisoner might have believed that the Magistrate had the same power to compel him to answer the questions as he would have had with regard to a witness; that therefore it may be urged that the Magistrate ought to have explained the law to the prisoner, and told him that, although he asked the questions, the prisoner was not bound to answer them.

the transfer from one Mofussil Court to another. And, if so, it does not seem strange that the power to transfer a case into this Court should be included in the same Section as that which gives the power to transfer cases from one Court into another.

But then it was urged that Section 13 of the Letters Patent does give express power to remove a civil case from a Mofussil Civil Court to this Court for trial in words altogether

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In the King and Wilson, 1 Holt's Reports, page 597, it was held by Chief Baron Richards that the examination of a prisoner before a Magistrate who examined him as a witness, although he held out no threat or inducement, could not be used as evidence against the prisoner. The Judge says: "No matter whether the prisoner was sworn or not, an examination of itself imposes an obligation to speak the truth." Suppose the prisoner in this case was ignorant of the law, and believed that, when the Magistrate asked him these questions without telling him that he was not bound to answer, he was under a legal obligation to speak the truth when the law allowed him to be silent. The Magistrate did not deceive him, nor did he use artifice; and if artifice or deception would be no legal answer to the reception of the statements against the prisoner, why should the statements be rejected, because the Magistrate omitted to tell the prisoner what the law was? There was no torture used, no threat of punishment; and if the prisoner answered under a belief that he was bound to speak the truth, it appears to me that there is no injustice in receiving against him the answers which he made under that belief. We are not to infer that the prisoner said what was not true, because he erroneously believed himself to be under an obligation to speak the truth. Even if what the prisoner had stated amounted to a confession of guilt, it would be very different from a confession made under an inducement of hope or fear, because, as I have already remarked, a confession made under an inducement held out to make a confession may be made falsely by a prisoner under a belief that he will benefit by it.

In the King and Ellis, 1 Ryan and Moody's Reports, p. 432, Mr. Justice Littledale held that the examination of a prisoner charged with felony, taken without threat or promise, by questions put by a Magistrate, was admissible. He there says, after referring to Starkie on Evidence, and to the case of the King and Wilson, to which I have referred, "Mr. Justice Holroyd received an examination which was the subject of the same objection;" and he added: "I think his decision is the correct one, and that the evidence is upon principle admissible."

For these reasons, I think that the statements made by the prisoner in answer to the questions put by Mr. Ryland were admissible against him.

The decision of Mr. Justice Phear was made during a trial and without full argument upon the whole question, and it does not appear that any of the authorities to which I have referred were brought to his notice. It was in the nature of a *nisi prius* decision, by which Courts sitting in Banco do not consider themselves bound.

I wish to add a few words on a point which escaped me. It was said that, on the second occasion, when the Magistrate informed the prisoner that he was not bound to answer the questions, he informed him that, if he objected to answer, that fact would be noted. It was contended in argument that that amounted to a kind of threat; but I think the Magistrate was quite right when he told the prisoner that he was not bound to answer, and that, if he objected to answer, the fact would be noted. The Magistrate, by telling the prisoner he was not bound to answer, without adding that, if he objected, a note would be taken, might have induced the prisoner to decline to answer the question, when the fact of his declining might have raised a prejudice against him.

Norman, J., concurred.

Markby, J.—I only wish to add a few words. If this matter had now to be discussed for the first time, I should have concurred with the eminent Judges and writers on the Law of Evidence, who have expressed the opinion that the rule which excludes statements made by prisoners to police-constables or Magistrates ought never to have been established. I think it would have been better to have left the whole to the Judge or Jury, including the circumstances which go to detract from the value of the statements, and leave them to judge of the value of the statements. The cases are so various that it is impossible to ground on them any general rule of exclusion, which does not exclude many statements that ought to be received, or admit many that are worthless. It is too late now, however, to discuss the validity of the rule.

The rule I take to be this, that statements are excluded if made under any threat or inducement of a temporal nature held out by a person in authority. If not of a temporal nature, they are admissible, and similarly if not held out by a person in authority. It is doubtful whether the threat or inducement must have reference to the charge.

The question is this case in whether statements by the prisoner made, first, before a police-constable, and, secondly, before a Magistrate, in answer to questions put to them, are admissible, no actual threat or inducement having been made. It seems to me that such statements can only be excluded on the ground that the relation between the accused and the police-constable or Magistrate necessarily implies that the answer is given under an inducement. Two cases have been quoted, in which expressions used by the English Judges go to show that such statements are not admissible for that reason; but I think it will be found that, wherever the Judges have expressed an opinion after deliberation and argument, they have held otherwise. I should not for a moment weigh a hasty expression falling from the mouth of a Judge in the course of a trial against a deliberate opinion expressed by a Court engaged in consideration of the law. I believe we are laying down the law in strict accordance with the rule of evidence in England, when we hold that answers to questions put by a police-constable or Magistrate are not to be presumed to be given under such a threat or inducement as to render them inadmissible, and I believe that on all rational principles we must come to the same conclusion.

With reference to the motion for arrest of judgment the Court delivered the following judgments :—

Peacock, C.J.—The prisoner in this case was charged with having committed an offence in Calcutta. The caption of the charge stated that he had been committed for trial before the High Court by W. H. Ryland, Esq., Deputy Magistrate and Justice of the Peace of and for the district of Serampore. At the close of the case of the prosecution, it was objected on behalf of the prisoner Nobodeep, first, that no proper evidence had been given of any proceeding having been had by the High Court, duly directing the preliminary investigation to be made by the Magistrate at Serampore; and, secondly, that no proper evidence had been given of a direction to transfer the trial of the prisoner to this Court, and that accordingly the learned Judge who tried the case should have directed the prisoner to be acquitted.

beyond any possible misapprehension. If, therefore, the framers of the Letters Patent intended this Court to possess the like power of removing a criminal case, why did not they say so with equal precision and expressness?

I am not sure that, if there were nothing in the Letters Patent to qualify this argument, that it ought to be allowed to cut down the natural operation of the words in Section 29. The power which is given to us in Section 29,

The prisoner had pleaded not guilty, and the question which arises upon this portion of the case is whether the plea of not guilty of the offence stated in the charge raised any question of fact as to the authority of the officer who preferred that charge. When by Section 3, Act XIII. of 1865, the Grand Jury was abolished, it was provided that any Justice of the Peace who shall commit to custody or hold to bail any person for trial before the High Court for an offence committed, or which, according to law, may be dealt with as if it had been committed, within the local limits of its ordinary original civil jurisdiction, shall, together with all examinations, informations, bailments, and recognizances now required to be delivered to such Court before the trial, deliver to the Clerk of the Crown a written instrument of charge signed by him, stating for what offence such person is to be committed or held to bail.

Section 4 enacts that the Clerk of the Crown shall peruse and consider the charge, and may, if he consider it necessary or expedient so to do, amend, alter, or add to the same. "The charge, with such amendments, alterations, or additions (if any), shall be recorded in the High Court, and the person charged shall be entitled to have a copy of such charge, with such amendments, alterations, or additions (if any), gratis."

Section 6 enacts that, "upon charges recorded as aforesaid, persons committed to custody or held to bail shall be deemed to have been brought before the High Court in due course of law, and (subject to the provisions contained in the 8th Section of this Act) shall be arraigned at the suit of the Crown, and the verdict shall be recorded thereupon."

There is no doubt that this Court had jurisdiction to try the prisoner for the offence committed, if a charge had been made against him by a person authorized to make that charge; and when this Court, being a Court of superior jurisdiction, put the prisoner upon his trial upon that charge, it must, in my opinion, be assumed, until the contrary was shown, that the charge had been preferred by a person competent to prefer it; and even if the charge had no caption at all, in my opinion, when the prisoner was put upon trial by this Court, it must be assumed that the Court had jurisdiction to try him.

The rule as to jurisdiction is that nothing shall be intended to be out of the jurisdiction of a superior Court but that which specially appears to be so; and, on the contrary, nothing shall be intended to be within the jurisdiction of an inferior Court but that which is so expressly alleged.—Peacock *vs.* Bell and Kendal, 1 Williams Saunders's Reports 74b.

Section 3 of the Act XIII. of 1865 does not require the officer making the charge to set forth his jurisdiction, but it merely requires the charge to state for what offence the person is so committed or held to bail; and I am of opinion that the charge would be presumed to be sufficient if the caption had merely stated that a charge had been duly preferred against him; and if that would have been sufficient, I think it would also have been sufficient if the Court had stated that a charge had been preferred against him; because, when the superior Court put him upon trial upon a charge preferred against him, it would be presumed that that charge had been duly preferred.

I by no means mean to say that the prisoner would have no remedy if the charge had not been duly preferred; but I am of opinion that, when the prisoner pleaded to the charge that he was not guilty of the offence stated therein, he raised no question as to whether the charge was duly preferred or not. It is stated in the caption that Mr. Ryland was a Deputy Magistrate and Justice of the Peace for Serampore; but I think that that makes no difference with regard to the question now under consideration, which is merely whether proof ought to have been given as to whether Mr. Ryland had sufficient authority to send up the charge. If he had no authority to send up the charge, there were two courses open to the prisoner. He might have applied to the Court to quash the charge, bringing to the notice of the Court the facts upon which he contended that the officer had no jurisdiction to prefer it; or he might have pleaded to the jurisdiction of the Court, showing that Mr. Ryland had no jurisdiction to prefer the charge; or, if it appeared upon the face of the charge and the caption that Mr. Ryland had no jurisdiction to prefer it, he might possibly have demurred.

It has been held that objections to the jurisdiction may be taken by demurrer if the objection appears on the face of the indictment and caption, and that the want of jurisdiction may also be pleaded specially, if the defect does not appear upon the face of the indictment. But it has been held that, from the nature of the plea of want of jurisdiction, it must evidently be pleaded before the general issue, because by pleading not guilty the defendant admits the power of the Court to try him and refers his case to their decision.—See Chitty's Criminal Law, p. 438, and cases there cited.

The prisoner, therefore, by pleading not guilty in this case, admitted the jurisdiction of the Court and of the Jury to try him for the offence; and it was no part of the issue which the Jury were sworn to try upon the plea whether Mr. Ryland had jurisdiction or not.

I am, therefore, clearly of opinion that the ruling of the learned Judge was right in holding that, upon the issue which the Jury had then to try, it was unnecessary to give any evidence with regard to Mr. Ryland's jurisdiction.

The next question is, whether the learned Judge was right in refusing to arrest the judgment. We are not called upon to arrest the judgment, but to say whether the learned Judge was right or not in refusing to arrest it.

Section 29 of the last Letters Patent ordains that the High Court shall have power to direct the transfer of any criminal case or appeal from any Court to any other Court of equal or superior jurisdiction, and also to direct the preliminary investigation or trial of any criminal case by any officer or Court otherwise competent to investigate or try it, though such case belongs in ordinary course to the jurisdiction of some other officer or Court.

It has been contended upon this Section that the High Court would have no power to direct the transfer of any criminal case or appeal from any Court in the Mofussil to the High Court itself; and it is also further contended upon the force of that argument that the High Court has no power to direct the preliminary investigation or trial of any criminal case in which the offence has been committed in Calcutta to any officer or Court who would be competent to investigate or try it, if the offence had been committed in the Mofussil within the jurisdiction of that officer.

whatever may be its proper extent, is unquestionably remedial in its nature; and I am disposed to think that this Court, the highest Court in this Presidency, ought not to decline a remedial power which the words of its Letters Patent apparently give it, without the strongest possible grounds for thinking that these words were not intended to mean what they apparently do mean. But there is much in the Letters Patent, or perhaps I ought to say omitted from the Letters Patent, which leads me to think that any argument drawn from the existence of Section 13 must be taken with very great qualification. Section 13 provides for but one portion of the civil jurisdiction, as compared with the other portions of the criminal jurisdiction which are dealt with by Section 29. Section 13 is confined only to the removing of civil suits for trial; Section 29, on the other hand, in one comprehensive set of words, provides for the transfer of criminal cases from district to district, including, if the words are to be taken in their apparent sense, removal to this Court, and further gives power to this Court to direct preliminary investigations; in other words, the institution of criminal suits in any district.

It appears to me, however, giving the best construction that I can to Section 29, that the High Court has power, if in its discretion it thinks right to exercise it, of transferring the trial of any criminal offence committed in Calcutta to a Mofussil Court which is otherwise competent to try it, or to direct the trial by the High Court of an offence committed in the Mofussil. The trial can only be transferred to a Court or officer otherwise competent to investigate it; "competent to investigate it" does not, as it appears to me, include competency as regards local jurisdiction, but only competency with regard to the offender, the nature of the offence, and the punishment.

For instance, the Court could not transfer to the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs the trial of an offence committed by a European British subject in Calcutta, because the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs could not have tried the offender even if the offence had been committed in his own jurisdiction. So, they could not transfer to a Magistrate in the Mofussil the trial of any offence which by the terms of the Code of Criminal Procedure could be tried only by a Sessions Judge, because the Magistrate would not be a Court competent to try the offence if it had been committed within his own local jurisdiction.

If we hold that the Court can transfer the investigation of a case committed in Calcutta to a Mofussil Magistrate otherwise competent to make the preliminary investigation, I do not see how we can stop short and say that the Court could not direct the trial of that case before an officer or Court in the Mofussil otherwise competent to try it. The words "to investigate or try it" are coupled in this Section in such a manner that I think that, if the Court has power to transfer the investigation, it has also power to transfer the trial.

It might be very inconvenient in many cases if the Court had not this power. Suppose two men were indicted for forging and uttering a forged note, and the evidence tended to show that the forgery was committed on one side of Circular Road in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, and that the uttering took place in Calcutta at the Bank of Bengal: it would be very inconvenient that the prisoners should be tried first at Alipore for the forgery, where they might be acquitted on the ground that the note was a genuine one, and that they should afterwards be tried in Calcutta, and convicted of uttering a forged note, on the ground that it was a forgery. It would be much more convenient that the Court should remove the trial for forgery into this Court, and to have the question as to the forgery and the uttering tried by the same Court.

It might be convenient under certain circumstances that, if an offence should be committed in Calcutta, and the prisoner should escape and be caught in some district in the Mofussil, to allow the Magistrate of the district in which the offender was caught to make the preliminary investigation. The words of the Section, therefore, being sufficiently large, and the convenience greatly in favor of the construction which I am about to put upon this Section, I have no doubt that the High Court would have had power, if they thought fit to exercise it, to have directed the preliminary investigation in this case by Mr. Ryland, the Deputy Magistrate of Serampore. I cannot say that the Court did so in the present instance, for the letters have been rejected, and we have no evidence of the fact. I can only say that Mr. Ryland might have had that jurisdiction.

The question then is, is this indictment bad in arrest of judgment because it does not appear that the High Court did authorize Mr. Ryland to make the preliminary investigation?

It is unnecessary for the Court to determine whether they can take judicial notice that Mr. Ryland was a Justice of the Peace for Bengal, or whether the Court would be bound to ignore that fact, even if they issued the commission appointing him, and the Chief Justice had signed it. If it should so happen that the High Court did issue a commission, and the Chief Justice signed it, it would be a great failure of justice that this judgment should be arrested, and the prisoner sent to a Justice of the Peace of Calcutta for the purpose of having a new preliminary investigation; and this failure of justice would be the more apparent and glaring if the commission should happen to be proved. In such a case, the prisoner must be re-committed for trial, and the time of this Court and of a new jury would have to be occupied in re-trying him, and the witnesses be again brought from their homes and from their business, some of them perhaps clerks in the Bank of Bengal, in order to re-prove the guilt of the prisoners, because this Court would not or could not by law take judicial notice that Mr. Ryland was a Justice of the Peace for Bengal, though they had appointed him themselves. If it became necessary to decide the point, I should hold that this Court could take judicial notice of the fact whether Mr. Ryland was or was not a Justice of the Peace for Bengal, if from the records of this Court it should appear that a commission had issued, as it has in fact issued. In fact, I hold that commission in my hand under my own signature, and it would be monstrous to hold that I cannot take judicial notice of its existence.

But it is not necessary to determine the question, for I have already held that, as a Magistrate of Serampore, he might have had power conferred upon him to make the preliminary investigation; and, if so, he would be a Magistrate having the power to prefer the charge.

I am of opinion that it would be no ground of demurrer or in arrest of judgment if a prisoner were put upon his trial by this Court upon a charge preferred by a Mofussil Magistrate subordinate to this Court, who

The Sections, therefore, do not, in my opinion, admit of being closely compared. And, further, that which is left out of Section 13, and does not appear anywhere else in the Letters Patent, is nevertheless taken to be a power belonging to this Court, and to lie within its jurisdiction. I mean the power to transfer civil cases from one District Court to another. This Court obtains that power under the general representation which it, so to speak, makes to the Sudder Court, and that power was given to the Sudder Court by the Civil Procedure Code: so that Section 1 and the Letters Patent are very defective, if it were intended that all our powers should be found in the Letters Patent—defective, that is, as regards civil matters in an important particular which is supplied by Section 1 with regard to criminal matters. Or else that which is put in Section 29 with regard to criminal matters is there of design. the one is a defect due to inattention of the

might have had the power of making the preliminary investigation conferred upon him, although the charge or the caption should not show upon the face of it that that jurisdiction had been conferred.

In the case of Knowlden and others against the Queen a case arose with reference to the Vexatious Indictment Act, the 23 and 24 Vic., Chapter 17, Section 1. That Statute enacted that no bill of indictment for conspiracy, among other offences, shall be presented to or found by any Grand Jury unless such indictment be prepared by the direction or with the consent in writing of a Judge or of the Attorney or Solicitor-General. It was held that it was not necessary that the indictment should aver, or that it should be proved before the Petty Jury, that the conditions imposed by that Statute had been performed.

Law Journal Reports, Magistrates' Cases, Vol. 33, p. 219; 5 Best and Smith, p. 532.

The judgment of Mr. Justice Blackburn puts the case in a very clear light, and therefore I will read an extract from it. He says: "The Statute 22 and 23 Vic., Chap. 17, Section 1, has not changed the essentials in the offence charged, or the tribunal which is to try it, but has introduced by proviso a limitation on the general authority of the Grand Jury, *viz.*, that before a bill is presented to or found by them, certain preliminaries shall be complied with. And the question is whether it should be averred in the indictment that these preliminaries have been complied with, or should be left to the Petty Jury as a question of fact. Whatever is part of the offence must be found by the Petty Jury, and whatever is matter of title is to be found by the Grand Jury. But this is only a restriction put on the general jurisdiction of the Grand Jury to find the bill, and is precisely the same as the restriction put on the filing of informations by Statute 4 and 5 W. & M., Chap. 18, Section 2, that the prosecutor must take the leave of the Court in open Court to file it. It may happen that in some cases the preliminaries have not been complied with, although the bill has been presented and found, or some counts may have been inadvertently inserted in the indictment, and then the far more convenient course would be that the defendant, on discovering that the Statute has not been complied with, and, as has been pointed out, he cannot be in ignorance of the omission, should apply to the Court, and the Court will quash the whole of the indictment, or those counts with respect to which the preliminaries have not been complied with, which was the course adopted by my brother Crompton at Monmouth. It is possible that some doubt might arise whether the offence charged was within the Statute, as in Reg. *versus* Heave, and one Court, holding that it was not, might refuse to quash the indictment or strike out the counts, and the prisoner might wish to question that decision in another Court. Perhaps he might plead to the jurisdiction, or, if he did not know of the omission to comply with the Statute in time to plead, he might perhaps bring error in fact."

It appears to me that that case is a very important one with reference to the point as to whether it was necessary for the charge to state that Mr. Ryland was empowered by this Court to make the preliminary investigation.

But, even if that case is not a sufficient authority, I apprehend that the only proper course would have been to move the Court to quash the indictment if Mr. Ryland had no jurisdiction; or to plead the want of jurisdiction if the prisoner whished to have the fact tried by a Jury, or if the objection had appeared on the face of the record to have raised it by demurrer.

It is said in Chitty's Criminal Law that "the omission in the caption of an indictment of the words 'there' and there' in the statement of the swearing of the Jury was formerly held fatal, because without them it did appear that the oath was taken in the county where the offence is alleged to have been committed; but the law is now otherwise, and it will be no ground for arresting the judgment, after special verdict remanded by certiorari, that the Judge who tried the prisoner is not stated to have been of the quorum, that no term appears on the record, or that the authority of the justices of gaol delivery is not stated." The cases there referred to in Chitty's Criminal Law, 1st Volume, pages 661 and 662.

Further, as this is a Court of superior jurisdiction the want of jurisdiction is not to be presumed. Act XIII. of 1865 does not require the officer making the charge to state the jurisdiction under which he is acting, and by Section 6 of that Act it is enacted that upon charges recorded as aforesaid (that is, by the Clerk of the Crown) persons committed to custody or held to bail shall be deemed to have been brought before the High Court in the course of law.

Looking at all these grounds, it appears to me that, if the indictment ought to set forth in the caption, the facts which constituted the jurisdiction of the officer who made the charge, the omission of stating those which ought to be presumed, and which might have been raised by the prisoner by pleading to the jurisdiction or by motion to quash the charge, would be a mere formal defect, which, under the provisions of Section 41 of Act XVIII. of 1862, ought to be taken by demurrer, and not by motion in arrest of judgment, after the party has pleaded to the charge, and thereby admitted the jurisdiction of the Court to try him.

That Section enacts that every objection to an indictment for uncertainty or for any formal defect apparent on the face thereof shall be taken by demurrer or motion to quash such indictment before the Jury shall be sworn, and not afterwards, and every Court before which any objection shall be taken by demurrer or motion to quash for any formal defect may, if it be thought necessary, cause the indictment to be forthwith amended in such particulars by some officer of the Court or other person, and thereupon the trial shall proceed as if no such defect had appeared.

If the objection had been taken in this case that Mr. Ryland's jurisdiction did not appear on the face of the record for want of the Court authorizing him and

framers of the Letters Patent, the value and weight of the argument from Section 13, which depends altogether upon a supposition of the completeness of the Letters Patent, is very materially qualified. And if that which is inserted in Section 29 is put there intentionally, it is very important to observe that Section 29 is a re-production of Section 35 of the Criminal Procedure Code with a certain omission. So it stands thus: that the framers of the Letters Patent did not think it desirable to put into the Letters the enactment relating to the transfer of civil suits, thinking it sufficient where it stood in the Civil Procedure Code; but at the same time thought it proper to bring the corresponding enactment from the Civil Procedure Code into the Letters Patent, making an alteration in it while they did so. And if that be the true version of what took place, the alteration is surely very significant. Section 35 says:—

Magistrate to make the preliminary investigation, the Court might have made an enquiry into the fact; and if they had found that he had had that authority conferred upon him, or that he was a Justice of the Peace for the whole of Bengal, and therefore might have investigated the charge without such authority, the Court might have ordered the caption of the indictment to be amended, and every thing would have been right. If the facts did not exist which conferred jurisdiction upon Mr. Ryland, and the prisoner had wished to have those facts tried by a Jury, he might have pleaded to the jurisdiction. But it appears to me that the omission to show all the facts which constituted the jurisdiction, or that Mr. Ryland was a Justice of the Peace for Serampore, instead of a Justice of the Peace for Bengal, is no ground for arresting the judgment.

Though Act XVIII. of 1862 speaks of indictments, and not of charges, Section 7, Act XIII. of 1865, sets that right, because it enacts that the word "indictment" in Act XVIII. of 1862 shall be understood to include the word "charge," and that all the provisions of Act XVIII. of 1862 shall apply to charges recorded under Act XIII. of 1865 and the trial of such charges.

It appears to me, therefore, that the present is one of those technical objections which tend to defeat justice, and to which the Court ought not to yield, unless it is compelled to do so by law. I am of opinion that the learned Judge was right in proceeding to pass sentence, and not yielding to the objection and arresting the judgment, which, unless we believe that the Jury was wrong in the verdict which they pronounced, could only have led to a verdict of guilty, upon which the prisoners must have been ultimately sentenced after a fresh preliminary investigation and the waste of the time of the Court, the Jury, and the witnesses, who would all have been required to go through the farce of a new trial for the sake of a mere technical objection, the sole tendency of which is to defeat, and not to promote, the due administration of justice. If the learned Judge had yielded to the objection, he would merely hold out false hopes to the prisoners, which, if the verdict of the Jury who tried them is correct (and I see no reason to doubt it), could never have been realized, and which must have ultimately turned out to be a mere delusion.

It appears to me that there is no force in the objection, and that the judgment must stand. The prisoners will be remanded to jail to undergo the sentence which has been passed upon them.

Norman, J.—On the first question discussed I entirely concur with the Chief Justice. I am glad that the decision has been based on no technical point, but on the broad ground laid down by him.

Every technical objection which the law allows the prisoner has been made in his favor, and it appears to me that these objections are entirely unfounded. I desire to guard myself against being supposed to allow that the prisoner does not get the full benefit of every exception. I agree with the first proposition of Mr. Newmarch, that, in order to a valid conviction under Act XIII. of 1865, there must be a valid charge, that is, a charge by a Justice of the Peace, or a Magistrate having jurisdiction to prefer that charge. I also go with another proposition of Mr. Newmarch's, that in this particular case, supposing that Mr. Ryland acted as a Magistrate, and not as a Justice of the Peace, it was essential that he should have been empowered by the High Court under Section 29 of the Letters Patent in order to give him (a Mofussil Magistrate) power to hold the preliminary investigation, at Serampore, of a charge against the prisoner, who had been arrested in Calcutta for a crime alleged to have been committed in Calcutta.

I am not prepared to say that the rule laid down in Knowlden *versus* The Queen is sufficient to decide the case now before us.

The marginal note of that case, which is reported 33 Law Journal, Magistrates' Cases, page 219, is as follows: "By the 22 and 23 Vic., C. 17, S. 1, no bill of indictment for certain specified offences shall be presented or found by the Grand Jury, unless some one of certain conditions have been performed. Held that it was not necessary that the performance of any of these conditions should be averred on the face of the indictment, or proved before the Petty Jury." On the argument, the cases of Hollis *versus* Marshall, 2 Hurlstone and Norman 755, and the King *versus* Fraser, 1 Moo. Cr. C. 407, were cited for the defendant. Mr. Justice Blackburn pointed out that the Grand Jury had *a general jurisdiction* [though the Statute had imposed certain restrictions on the general jurisdiction which they already had] to find the bill. And it is that fact which distinguishes Knowlden *versus* The Queen from those above mentioned.

In that case the indictment was presented by an authority, *viz.*, the Grand Jury, which had general jurisdiction. In the present case, if the facts are as supposed by Mr. Newmarch, the charge was preferred by an officer *not having jurisdiction unless specially empowered by the order of the High Court under the 29th Section of the Charter*, and therefore it would have been necessary if the matter were put in issue to show that the Magistrate had such special powers, because without such evidence it would appear that the charge was preferred by an officer not having jurisdiction.

Apart from Act XIII. of 1865, if the prisoner desired to take the objection that the Magistrate had not been so empowered, I think he could not have done so on his trial under the plea of not guilty. The objection does not show that no offence had been committed of which this Court had jurisdiction, and therefore the case is not like that of *the Kinlochs*, Foster's Crown Cases, 17-23. The offence was committed and the prisoner arrested within the jurisdiction of this Court, and to such a case the observation of Lord Ellenborough, in the King *versus* Johnson, 6 East 601, applies, *viz.*, the presumption is that nothing shall be intended to be out of the jurisdiction of a Superior Court of general jurisdiction which is not alleged and shown to be so.

"It shall be competent to the Sudder Court to order the transfer of any criminal case or appeal from a Criminal Court subordinate to its authority to any other such criminal Court of equal or superior jurisdiction, or to order that any offence shall be enquired into or determined in any district, or division of a district, other than that in which the offence shall have been committed, whenever it shall appear to such Sudder Court that such order will promote the ends of justice, or tend to the general convenience of the parties or witnesses."

The Clause, as it appears in the Letters Patent, does not contain the words "subordinate to its authority" in the first part, or the word "such" in the latter part. Had these words been contained, they would have excluded this Court from the category of superior

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The King *versus* Johnson shows that a plea to the jurisdiction would have been bad, because it would not and could not have shown any other tribunal before which the prisoner ought properly to have been tried.

It is said that the Crown was bound to prove, or was at least liable to be called on to prove, that an order had been made, directing the transfer of the case for the preliminary investigation.

The 5th Section of Act XIII. of 1865 provides that any Justice of the Peace or Magistrate, who shall commit to custody or hold to bail any person for trial before the High Court for an offence committed within the local limits of its Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction, shall, together with all examinations, &c., deliver to the Clerk of the Crown a written instrument of charge signed by him, stating for what offence such person is committed for trial. The 4th Section empowers the Clerk of the Crown to consider, and, if necessary, to amend the charge, and directs that the charge with any such amendment is to be recorded. The 6th Section enacts that, upon charges so recorded as aforesaid, persons committed to custody or held to bail *shall be deemed to have been brought before the High Court in due course of law*, shall be arraigned at the suit of the Crown, and the verdict recorded thereon.

The effect of this 6th Section is that, if a person is committed for trial before the High Court for an offence committed, or which was by law so dealt with as if it had been committed, *within the local limits, by any Magistrate*, the charge is to be deemed to have been brought before the High Court in due course of law. It follows that, if, in a particular case, any special order of the High Court is necessary to empower the Magistrate to hold the investigation, *it must be presumed* for the purposes of the trial that such preliminary order was duly made.

The duty of the Court in dealing with a charge so recorded is clearly prescribed in the 6th Section—the prisoner is to be arraigned, and the verdict recorded upon the charge.

It does not follow that the prisoner has no remedy if there were no such order. No doubt, if a charge by a Magistrate not having any jurisdiction is sent up, the prisoner can question it; but that apparently must be by motion to quash the charge before the trial, or by error in fact after the verdict.

I think the Crown was not bound to give evidence of the preliminary order, and that the learned Judge was not bound to receive the evidence. The prisoner was arraigned, and the verdict given as directed by the 6th Section, and the learned Judge was right in accepting and recording the verdict as the case stood.

As to arrest of judgment, I think that there was not any ground for moving in arrest of judgment, because the matter alleged to be error does not appear on the face of the record. No injury has been sustained by the prisoner. We are not bound to go into facts, because, as the 6th Section raises a *primâ-facie* presumption of the regularity of the charge, it was for the prisoner to rebut it, and show that the charge was not rightly instituted; and he has not done so. But, if we do go into the facts, there is sufficient proof by evidence, under the hand of the Registrar, an officer of the Court, that an order was made, directing that the preliminary enquiry should take place before the Magistrate at Serampore.

It has been urged that Clause 29 of the Letters Patent does not give to the High Court power to give such a direction as to the preliminary investigation. The first branch of that Clause refers to the transfer of criminal cases and appeals; the second branch empowers the Court to give directions as to holding preliminary investigations.

(His Lordship here read the Clause in question.)

I know of no conceivable reason why the words "any Officer or Court" should bear the restricted sense contended for by Mr. Newmarch. His contention even as to the first branch, it seems to me, entirely failed. The result is, that in my judgment, whether Mr. Ryland was a Justice of the Peace or not, there is no reason for alleging that he was not an officer competent to prefer the charge, and on that ground I think the conviction wholly unassailable.

Upon the point whether we can take judicial notice that Mr. Ryland is a Justice of the Peace for Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, our records show that he is so.

He is an officer of the Court, subject to it, and constantly committing prisoners for trial to the Court. Before we receive such charges, are we to enquire and take evidence whether he has received a commission or not? His commission is now in Court under the seal of the Court and the signature of the Chief Justice.

It seems to me plain that we cannot but recognize our own records and acts, and our own Subordinate Magistrates. Mr. Ryland professed to act as a Magistrate. I think, in so doing, he acted rightly, and I do not rest my judgment on the ground that he was also a Justice of the Peace for Bengal, Behar, and Orissa.

Markby, J.—I agree substantially with the Chief Justice. I think all that is put in issue by the plea of not guilty in the charge is what follows the word "change;" just as on an indictment presented by a Grand Jury, all that is put in issue is what follows the word "present." I think it would lead to the greatest inconvenience if on every trial the correctness of the procedure by which the prisoner was brought before the Court was considered as challenged.

I therefore think I was right at the trial in refusing to leave to the Jury any question as to whether the Magistrate at Serampore had been duly authorized to hold the preliminary enquiry.

With regard to the motion in arrest of judgment, I concur in the construction which has been put upon Section 29 of the Charter by the Chief Justice.

Courts referred to in Section 29; and therefore reasonable inference from the omission of them is that this Court was not intended to be excluded.

It is, no doubt, singular that, if Section 29 of the Letters Patent does confer the general power, which I think it does, Section 24 should have been put into the Letters Patent, inasmuch as it appears to be little other than a particular instance of that general power. There are, however, provisions even in that Section, which, under a nice discrimination, might possibly distinguish the power there given, and prevent it from being strictly such a particular case as that to which I have referred. However this may be, having regard to the want of completeness of drafting, which certainly is manifested in the Letters Patent, I do not think that even the presence of such a provision as that of Section 24 should be allowed much weight in the arguments which I have already dwelt upon at some considerable length.

And, lastly, we have the express opinion of the late Chief Justice, the present Officiating Chief Justice, and Mr. Justice Markby, in *Nobodeep Chunder Gossamee's* case, all concurring in laying down that this Court does, under Section 29, possess the jurisdiction which is now invoked by Mr. Ingram's client. I have thought it necessary at this length to give the reasons which have led me to concur in the opinion of these three Judges, because the question whether or not this Court possesses the power is one, I apprehend, of the greatest importance to the administration of justice in Bengal.

I come now to the facts upon which this application is made. The principle grounds upon which the application is based seem to me to be shortly these, namely:—

1. That, in substance, all the numerous charges preferred against the prisoners are allegations of criminal acts and conduct committed and exhibited at Calcutta, not at Patna.

2. That the course of the prosecution, whether intentionally or not, has been unfair, and that the selection of Patna as its place is certainly calculated to prejudice the prisoners.

3. That the case against the prisoners has been, and is being, put together by an organized set of police-agents who have had their quarters at Patna, and are using improper and illegal means to attain their object.

4. That the effect of the proceedings of this police-agency is to create at Patna such a feeling of dread and insecurity among persons likely to be called upon to give testimony there in the matter as will prevent a trial held in that place from being fair, impartial, and satisfactory.

5. That several of the material witnesses for the defence refuse to go to Patna to give evidence.

6. That difficult points of law are likely to arise at the trial.

These, taken together, did appear to me to afford very sufficient cause why the trial should be held in the superior Court at Calcutta rather than in the Sessions Court at Patna; and, as the affidavits filed by the applicant were undoubtedly strong enough to make out these grounds *primâ facie*, the rule was issued by this Court.

In answer to this rule, the prosecutor has filed affidavits, denying, to a very great extent, the statements of the applicants relative to the conduct of the prosecutor and behaviour of the police. I do not think it right that we should express anything in the shape of a judicial decision on the many issues of fact thus raised between the parties, or compare the relative truthfulness of the different deponents on the one side and on the other, because we can hardly do this without giving grounds which might probably prejudice the parties at the trial. It seems to be now sufficient to say—to state very generally—that I have considered the affidavits on both sides with the gravest anxiety. I am very sensible of the weight which must of need be attached to the forcible arguments employed by Mr. Ingram, and I feel much the absence of former decisions on the point, which might, in so grave a matter as this, afford a valuable guide to a proper exercise of the discretion of the Court. It appears to me that instances drawn from the practice of the Court of Queen's Bench in England with reference to the granting or withholding of writs of *certiorari* to bring up an indictment from an inferior Court are not near enough—not nearly parallel enough—to this case as to afford us any real assistance in forming our judgment. In England all criminal trials except trials for small offences are heard by Jury, which, I may say, is drawn somewhat promiscuously from a not very high class of the population. There is, therefore, some risk that the impartiality of the tribunal so constituted should be affected by existing causes of popular feeling or excitement bearing on the matter to be

tried. And then the verdict of this body is final without appeal. Any risk of miscarriage of this kind by such a tribunal, if it is to be prevented, can only be prevented by removal to a better or less prejudiced tribunal for trial. Hence, a comparatively small cause may possibly be found inducing the Court of Queen's Bench to remove criminal cases in England, which might not be sufficient to render a removal necessary or justifiable under a different kind of procedure.

In the present case, the prisoners will be tried at Patna by a Judge assisted by assessors of intelligence and of respectable independent social position, and an appeal from the decision of the Sessions Court will lie to this Court, both upon fact and law. Bearing this in mind, I think the affidavits put in on behalf of the prosecution do appear so far to displace the case set up before us by the applicants as to remove the grounds for supposing that they will not have a fair and impartial trial at Patna.

There remains, perhaps, on the face of these affidavits themselves, enough to indicate that there has been a long-continued and zealous activity on the part of the police in procuring witnesses in support of the prosecution, such as may not possibly be without an effect upon the character of the evidence upon which the Sessions Court will have to act.

But although for this reason more than common care will be required for the proper trial of the case, I do not see in it sufficient cause to justify our coming to the conclusion that the Sessions Court at Patna is not competent to exercise the requisite care.

Finally, it appears to me that it is not likely that points of law will arise in the course of this trial, such as the Sessions Court cannot satisfactorily deal with; and in saying this I bear in mind that, should the Sessions Court by any misfortune err in this matter, the error can be set right afterwards in this Court.

On the whole, then, I think that the applicants have failed to show to this Court that it is necessary to promote the ends of justice that the removal asked for should be ordered.

Macpherson, J.—The questions to be decided on this rule are, whether the High Court has power to order this case to be transferred to itself for trial; and whether, if this Court has this power, it ought to exercise it in this particular case.

I confess, I think, that there is great forc in the argument of the Advocate-General as t the power of transferring criminal cases to th Court from a Court in the Mofussil; and may be that, if the matter were *res integr* I should have adopted the view for which h contends. I am, however, unable to discov anything which actually excludes that inte pretation of Section 29 of the Letters Pate which gives this Court power to transfer cas to be tried by itself in the exercise of i original criminal jurisdiction. Indeed, must admit that, on a perfectly fair, reaso able, and unstrained reading of the wor used, they do bear that interpretation.

This being so, I find that a Court consi ing of three Judges (Peacock, C.J., and No man and Markby, JJ.) have held express that the High Court has power to transfer criminal case to itself. This was in the ca of *Reg.* vs. *Nobodeep Chunder Gossamee* B. L. Rep. 31, Criminal), decided in Ap 1868; and the decision was given after form argument of the question, though the jud ment of one at least of the learned Judg turned more specially upon another point.

Under these circumstances, I am not pr pared to say that I differ from my learn colleagues, who now are clearly of opinion th Section 29 does confer this power on th Court. At the same time, I must add th I think that the language of Section 29 ambiguous, and might fairly have been co strued in the more restricted sense which th Advocate-General would put upon it, a which the position of Section 29 in th Letters, and various of the provisions of th other Sections of the Letters, would seem indicate that the framers of the Letters Pate intended should be put upon it.

I concur in the opinion that sufficie grounds have not been made out to justify th High Court in transferring this case for tri before itself in Calcutta.

The cases referred to as showing the circum stances under which a criminal case may England be brought up by *certiorari* for tri in a superior Court appear to me to ha little or no applicability to the present matte In England there is, I may say, practical no appeal in a criminal case from the decisio of the Court which tries it—no remedy for miscarriage of justice. From the decision the Patna Court, if it tries this case, there an appeal to the High Court on both facts an law. In my opinion, therefore, the mere po sibility or probability that difficult question whether of law or of fact, will arise, is n

reason for transferring a case under Section 29. For, in the event of a miscarriage on the part of the Mofussil Court, a sufficient remedy is provided in the right of appeal to this Court.

A very much stronger case must be made out to justify us in transferring a case to this Court, than would, in England, justify the removal of a case by *certiorari*. For the effect of a transfer under Section 29 is wholly different from the effect of a removal under a *certiorari*. In England, a case brought upon *certiorari* is tried in precisely the same manner before the superior Court as it would have been tried if it had not been removed. Here a case transferred to this Court is tried under a procedure wholly different from that of the Mofussil Court from which it is transferred. While such a transfer in England involves change only of place of trial and Court, here it involves change of place of trial and Court, and also of procedure. I may add that the transfer of a criminal case to this Court may involve further very substantial changes in the personal status and privileges of the accused, and of all others who come from the Mofussil into Calcutta for the purposes of the trial. To obtain the benefit of these changes is one of the avowed and principal objects of the present application.

Section 35 of the Criminal Procedure Code gives the High Court power to order the transfer of a criminal case from one Court in the Mofussil to any other Mofussil Court of equal or superior jurisdiction, whenever it shall appear "that such order will promote the ends of justice, or tend to the general convenience of the parties or witnesses." Considering the great difference which exists between the effect of a transfer from one Mofussil Court to another, and the transfer from a Mofussil Court to the High Court, it appears to me that it is under Section 35 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and under that Section alone, that this Court ought to order the transfer of criminal cases from one Court to another, except in very special cases. The excepted cases would comprise the class indicated by Sir Barnes Peacock in his judgment in Nobodeep's case, *i. e.*, cases in which the transfer is necessary in order to avoid the trial of what is substantially but one issue more than once in different Courts with different jurisdictions. They would also include cases in which it is clearly made out that there is a substantial doubt as to whether the accused can have a fair trial elsewhere than in Calcutta. I see no reason, on the materials before me, for entertaining any such doubt. I, therefore, think the rule should be discharged.

Mookerjee, J.—I concur with Mr. Justice Phear in holding that the High Court has the power to direct the transfer of any criminal case to itself, and to try the same. It cannot be denied that the Letters Patent give the High Court much larger powers and more extensive jurisdiction than those possessed by either the late Sudder Court or the Supreme Court. Section 29 of the Letters Patent of 1865, I think, gives the power to the High Court to remove a criminal case from any Court to any other Court, including itself. The Sudder Court was only a Court of Appeal; and it appears to me, therefore, that the Legislature in 1861 never contemplated that the Court should try and determine criminal cases as a Court of original criminal jurisdiction. The language of Section 35, Act XXV. of 1861, is as follows:—

"It shall be competent to the Sudder Court to order the transfer of any criminal case for appeal from a Criminal Court *subordinate to its authority* to any other *such* Criminal Court of equal or superior jurisdiction, or to order that any offence shall be enquired into or determined in any other district, or division of a district, other than that in which the offecne shall have been committed."

The language used in Section 29 of the Letters Patent of 1865 is quite different. It does not use the words "from a Criminal Court subordinate to the authority of the High Court," and also omits the word "such." On the contrary, the Section says, "to any other Court of equal or superior jurisdiction." That the High Court is a Court of superior jurisdiction to that of a Sessions Judge cannot, I apprehend, be denied. I cannot see how it can, therefore, be contended that the High Court, which can transfer criminal cases from the Court of one Sessions Judge to that of another (which is a Court of equal jurisdiction), is not empowered by the terms of Section 29 to remove the case to itself, which is undoubtedly a Court of superior jurisdiction to that of a Mofussil Sessions Judge. I, therefore, entirely agree with the learned Judges who decided the case of *Nobodeep Chunder Gossamee*, and hold that it is competent to this Court to direct the trial by the High Court of an offence triable by the Sessions Court at Patna. This decides the first objection raised by the Advocate-General as to the jurisdiction of this Court, under the Letters Patent, to remove a mofussil criminal case to itself.

With reference to the second objection raised by the learned Advocate-General as to expediency of removing this particular case from the Court of the Sessions Judge of Patna to the High Court, I agree with my learned colleagues that no sufficient case has been made out by the prisoners to induce a reasonable belief that the prisoners will not have a fair and impartial trial in the Court of the Sessions Judge. English cases have been cited to show that, where important questions of law arose, or where accounts of a complicated nature had to be tried, the Court of Queen's Bench issued writs of *certiorari* and removed the trial from the inferior Court to itself. But in England there is no appeal in criminal cases, whereas in this country a regular appeal on facts and law is allowed by our procedure, and any mistake of law or fact committed by the Sessions Judge can be rectified by an appeal to this Court. If a strong case had been made out that there is a reasonable apprehension that the prisoners will not have a fair trial at Patna, I would not have hesitated to direct the removal of this case from the Sessions Court at Patna to this Court for trial.

The 12th May 1871.

Present :

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Surety—Warrant—Section 220, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea.

Khoodee Koiburtnee

versus

Doorgadass Bhuttacharjee.

Before a warrant can issue attaching the property of a surety, he should be called on under Section 220, Code of Criminal Procedure, to show cause why he should not pay the penalty mentioned in his bond, and it must appear clearly on the face of the record that he had such notice given him.

Reference.—One Doorgadass Bhuttacharjee was sent up by the police for trial under Section 448 of the Penal Code. It seems that the accused was sent up on bail, one surety in the sum of 100 rupees having been required by the police, and found. The surety was bound over to cause the accused to appear before the Joint Magistrate at 10 A.M. on the 10th November 1870. The case was made over for trial to Mr. Deputy Magistrate * * *. The accused was not present on the 10th. On the 11th, Mr. * * * recorded a "proceeding," ordering that the bail bond should be forfeited, and "that a warrant be issued for attachment and sale "of the moveable property belonging to, *1st*, "Doorgadass Bhuttacharjee; *2nd*, that of his "surety, Jadub Chunder Surnokar, to the "extent of 20 rupees each."

The whole of this order appears to me to be illegal.

The order, as against the accused person himself, was passed under a misconception. The Deputy Magistrate was under the impression that the accused gave his own recognizance to appear. As a matter of fact, he did not give it. This is now admitted by the Deputy Magistrate, and there can be no doubt that the money ought not to have been demanded from the accused person.

With reference to the order against the surety, I have to remark that it was the Deputy Magistrate's duty, under Section 220 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to give notice to the surety to pay or to show cause why he should not pay the penalty mentioned in the bond. It is only when the surety fails to show sufficient cause that a warrant can issue.

In the present case, I do not find that any notice was given to the surety. The order for the issue of a warrant was therefore, as it seems to me, illegal.

I submit the Deputy Magistrate's explanation.

With reference to it, I have only to observe that a mere verbal and unrecorded order to show cause would not, in my opinion, have been sufficient, even if it had actually been given. Before a warrant can issue, it seems to me to be necessary to show clearly on the face of the record that the surety has had notice, and that he has either not availed himself of it, or has appeared and failed to show cause.

Judgment of the High Court.

Norman, C. J.—The order of the Deputy Magistrate is illegal, and must be quashed for the reasons mentioned in the Magistrate's letter.

There seems to be several other objections to it.

The 13th May 1871.

Present:

he Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

igh Court—Sentence—Sections 404 and 405, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(Criminal Motion.)

Messrs. Watson and Co., *Petitioners,*

versus

Bykuntnath Doss, *Opposite Party.*

Mr. R. T. Allan for the Petitioners.

n a case in which a legal sentence, however light it y be, has been passed, the High Court, sitting as a urt of revision under Section 404 of the Code of iminal Procedure, have not the power to interfere with t sentence, inasmuch as, under Section 405, the Court not say that the sentence is contrary to law.

Kemp, J.—This is an application under ction 404. The petitioners appear to seek obtain an order from this Court enhancing e punishment inflicted by the Lower Court on the prisoner. The accused was convict- under Section 408 of criminal breach of st, and the sentence passed upon him is cer- nly a very light one; but we cannot say der Section 405 that it is contrary to law. e punishment for the offence described un- r Section 408 is imprisonment of either de- ription for a term which may extend to seven ars. Mr. Allan for the petitioners has awn our attention to a case to be found in ol. V., Weekly Reporter, Criminal Rulings, ge 45. In that case, no doubt, the Court, ting as a Court of revision, did hold that this urt, as a Court of revision, could reverse a ntence, and pass a proper sentence, notwith- nding that in such a case the sentence must enhanced in order to pass a legal sentence; d an illustration of this was given to this ect, namely, that, if an accused person be nvicted of murder which would be punish- le either by death or transportation for life, d the Lower Court had passed a sentence of y 14 years' rigorous imprisonment, such ntence not being a legal sentence, could be eversed and set right by this Court acting as Court of revision, although in doing so the ntence must be enhanced in order to pass a legal sentence. In this case a legal sentence has been passed, however light it may be; therefore, sitting as a Court of revision, we have not the power, under Section 404, to interfere with that sentence, inasmuch as, under Section 405, we cannot say that this sentence is contrary to law.

The application is rejected.

The 15th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Procedure — Evidence — Examination of accused— Magistrate's attestation— Sections 205 and 366, Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Queen *versus* Chupput Khyrwar, *Prisoner.*

Committed by the Deputy Commissioner, and tried by the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore, on a charge of murder.

Before the examination of a prisoner in the presence of the committing officer can be used as evidence against him under Section 366, Criminal Procedure Code, the provisions of Section 205 of that Code must have been complied with, and the committing officer's attestation affixed in full to the examination.

Glover, J.—This prisoner has been convicted by the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore of the murder of his brother, Kurrumalee, and has been sentenced capitally, subject to the confirmation of this Court.

The evidence on which he has been convicted is his confession before the Deputy Commissioner and the testimony of two witnesses.

We think that what the accused said, or is alleged to have said, before the Deputy Commissioner, cannot be used as evidence against him under Section 366, Criminal Procedure Code, because the examination was not taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 205. That Section requires that the examination of an accused person, after being tested and "made conformable to what he declares is "truth," shall be attested "by the signature "of the Magistrate." Now, there is no *signature* attached to the accused's examination in this case. There is, no doubt, an initial of some kind, which may be the initial of the

Deputy Commissioner, but this is not a "signature," and the law requires that there should be a "signature."

Before making his examination evidence against an accused, it is absolutely essential that the terms of the law should have been strictly complied with. The point was fully discussed in the case of Queen *versus* Mussamut Niruni, 7 Weekly Reporter, p. 49, Criminal Rulings, and in accordance therewith we think that the examination said to have been made by the Deputy Commissioner is not admissible in evidence against Chupput, and should not have been so used in the Sessions Court.

We may remark in this place that we have, on more than one previous occasion, observed considerable laxity of procedure on the part of the criminal authorities of Chota Nagpore in respect of the way in which the examination of accused persons is taken, and the Judicial Commissioner should be careful to impress on his subordinates that the provisions of the law as laid down in Section 205, Code of Criminal Procedure, should, in every case, be most fully and most carefully complied with.

In this particular case justice will not miscarry by reason of the Deputy Commissioner's omission to record the prisoner's examination in a legal and proper manner, because there is, we think, sufficient evidence on the record, apart from Chupput's examination, to justify his conviction. There is the direct testimony of the woman Goomnee, which does not seem open to suspicion, and her evidence is to some extent corroborated by the evidence of the chowkeedar to whom the woman reported the murder almost as soon as it had been committed. The fact of this man's ignorance of the intrigue does not throw any suspicion on his veracity, for the affair had not been going on for more than a couple of months, and would, under the circumstances, be kept as secret as possible. There is no possible explanation of the woman's subsequent conduct except on the supposition that her story is true, for the prisoner would be the last person she would have thought of charging with a crime he had never committed.

Her evidence satisfied the Judicial Commissioner and his assessors, and we see no reason to distrust it. If it be believed, it fully justifies the conviction and sentence.

We confirm the sentence of death passed on the prisoner Chupput.

The 20th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

Procedure—License—Section 77, Act III. of 1864.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Sessions Judge of 24-Pergunnahs.

The Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners for the Suburbs of Calcutta

versus

Umbica Churn Mookerjee.

Where the accused was charged with a breach of Section 77, Act III. of 1864, in not taking out a license for a wood-yard, and he pleaded that the yard had been in existence prior to 1864, it was held that the Magistrate was wrong in refusing to enquire into the allegation as to the existence of the yard prior to 1864.

Norman, C.J.—The defendant was charged with a breach of Section 77 of Act III. of 1864 in not having taken out a license for a wood-yard. He answered that his yard was an old one, meaning a yard which had been in existence prior to the passing of Act III. of 1864. The defendant admitted that he had taken out a license in previous years. The Magistrate thought he was not bound to enquire whether the yard existed prior to 1864, and convicted the accused, fining him Rupees 25.

In refusing to try the question whether the wood-yard existed prior to 1864, the Magistrate was clearly wrong, and the conviction cannot be sustained.

The fine, if levied, must be repaid.

The 20th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Procedure—Land-disputes—Breach of the peace—Section 318, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(Miscellaneous Case.)

Gunga Narain Mitter, *Petitioner,*

versus

Gour Soonder Chowdhry, *Opposite Party.*

Mr. Mun Mohun Ghose and *Baboo Doorga Mohun Doss* for the Petitioner.

Baboo Kalee Mohun Dass for the Opposite Party.

When both the disputing parties are examined, and state that men were collected by their opponents for the purpose of committing a breach of the peace, a Magistrate is justified, without enquiring who was the aggressor or the aggrieved party, to proceed under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and to take whatever steps are, in his opinion, necessary to prevent a breach of the peace.

Kemp, J.—We do not think it necessary to interfere in the order passed by the Magistrate in this case. The first objection taken by the learned Counsel for the 2nd party is that no judicial finding has been recorded which is a condition precedent before proceedings under Section 318 of the Code of Criminal Procedure can be instituted. The next point refers to a question of jurisdiction. The learned Counsel contends that a part of a mouzah comprised in lot Khundoho is not within the jurisdiction of the officer passing the order. In this case, on examination of the record, it appears that both parties put in petitions through their karpurdazes on one and the same day. In both petitions it is stated that some 60 or 70 men are collected in different villages armed with soorkies, lattees, and other weapons, with the object of preventing the opposite party from collecting the rents, and also with the object of looting the cutcherry of the opposite party. Both their karpurdazes were examined on oath, and both stated that there was, in their opinion, an apprehension of a breach of the peace. Upon this the police were directed to enquire, and they reported the result of their enquiry. Upon the receipt of these reports, the Deputy Magistrate, on the 13th of February 1871, recorded a proceeding, stating that, from the police-reports and other papers, and from enquiry, it appeared to him that there was reason to apprehend a breach of the peace, and he therefore proceeded under Section 318. A decision has been referred to, dated the 22nd of September 1869 (I allude to the case of Kashee Kishore Roy *versus* Tarinee Kant Lahoree); and in that case Mr. Justice Norman held that the Deputy Magistrate had not recorded any proceeding, nor does he anywhere say that he is satisfied that a dispute likely to lead to a breach of the peace existed. Now, in this case the Magistrate has recorded a proceeding; he has stated the grounds on which he is satisfied that a breach of the peace was likely to occur. It appears to us also very clear that, when both parties are examined, and both parties state that men are collected for the purpose of committing a breach of the peace, that the Magistrate was justified, without enquiring then and there who was the aggressor or the aggrieved party, to proceed under the Section, and to take whatever steps were, in his opinion, necessary to prevent a breach of the peace. With reference to the 2nd point, the learned Counsel for the 1st party, Mr. Ghose, stated that he only asked for an order with reference to such mouzahs as were within the jurisdiction of the officer passing the order. The order of the Magistrate will therefore stand, but only with reference to such mouzahs as are situated within his jurisdiction.

The 23rd May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and Onookool Chunder Mookerjee, *Judges.*

High Court — Procedure — Land-disputes — Breach of the peace—Section 318, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(Miscellaneous Case.)

Bharut Chunder Bose, *Petitioner,*

versus

Dwarkanath Chowdhry, on the part of Doorga Monee, *Opposite Party.*

Baboos Romesh Chunder Mitter and *Amarendro Nath Chatterjee* for the Petitioner.

Mr. W. C. Banerjee and *Baboo Bycunt Nath Doss* for the Opposite Party.

Where a Magistrate, proceeding under Section 318, Code of Criminal Procedure, decides on the evidence in favor of a party as being in possession of the disputed land, the High Court cannot reconsider the Magistrate's decision, and decide which party is in actual possession.

Jackson, J.—No sufficient ground has been made out upon which we can legally interfere with the decision of the Assistant Magistrate. It is said that no sufficient notice was given to the present applicant that it would be necessary for him to attend the Magistrate on the 9th and 10th January last with his evidence; that notice was served upon him to put in his written statement, but no sufficient notice for the production of his witnesses; that, when both parties went to the spot in accordance with the notice, he asked the Assistant Magistrate for time to enable him to file documentary evidence, and also time in order to examine witnesses, one of whom was apparently a gomastah, who was at the time imprisoned in the Fureedpore jail.

The Assistant Magistrate has explained that he passed no order upon the several petitions of the applicant, because he had previously given notice to the parties, and that he thought that they ought to have produced their evidence at the time the enquiry was held. It is very clear that a large quantity of evidence, both documentary and oral, was produced by both sides on that day. The enquiry was under Section 318 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Assistant Magistrate, in order to satisfy himself, and to give every opportunity to the parties to produce their witnesses, went to the spot in person. The present applicant was evidently aware that he was expected to produce his evidence at that time, inasmuch as he did produce a large quantity of it. And, if he really was in possession of the land, it seems to me quite impossible that he should not have been able to produce the very best evidence on the point of his possession on the spot. The Assistant Magistrate enquired from both parties as to whose ryots were in possession of each different field in the disputed land, and the result of his enquiry was to satisfy him that one side was unable to point out the ryots to whom the fields belonged, and the other side then and there pointed out the occupier of each different field. This investigation satisfied the Assistant Magistrate that the present applicant to us was not in possession, but that the other side was. The Assistant Magistrate accordingly has decided on the point of possession alone, totally regardless of all questions of right and title, in favor of the person whose evidence he believed. It is very seldom that in such a case as this we find that the decision solely turns on the question of the fact of possession. It seems to me that the applicant in this case wishes us to reconsider the question of possession on evidence regarding title. We have no power whatever to reconsider the decision of the Assistant Magistrate, and to decide which party is in actual possession. If the Assistant Magistrate had not decided this case on the possession of the parties, we might have directed him to decide it on that point, and on that point alone. It may be (I do not know whether it is really the case, but it is alleged) that there is some mistake in his decision in the names attributed to this land. But whether there is such a mistake or not, it seems to me quite unimportant, as the Assistant Magistrate distinctly says that he does not decide whether the land belongs to one chur or to another. He has only decided that the land in dispute is in possession of the party whose evidence he believed. On the evidence which was before him it seems to me that that was the proper way to decide this case, and we have no power to interfere. We reject the application.

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The 26th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Procedure—Complainant—Evidence—Section 262, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Midnapore, in the case of Notobur Bera.

A complainant in a case who mentioned the names of several witnesses on his behalf was requested to produce them on a certain date. Instead of doing that, he produced only two witnesses, who were examined. HELD that, as the complainant did not apply to the Magistrate to issue summonses on the other witnesses, or ask him to proceed under Section 262, Code of Criminal Procedure, the Magistrate was not wrong in law in deciding the case on the evidence which was before him.

Reference.—COMPLAINANT, Notobur Bera, brought a case under Section 383 (with other Sections), stating he was dragged from his house to defendant's cutcherry, and on a false charge of immorality fined 25, and made, by beating and kicking, to pay Rs. 5 as part-payment. He produced two witnesses, who confirmed his story.

The Deputy Magistrate dismissed the case. He referred to a case under Section 282, Criminal Procedure Code, as parallel, and also discredited the witnesses—one, because he said the naib had never done so before; and the other, because he was complainant in another case.

I think that, of the two points urged by complainant in appeal, the first, *viz.*, the rejection of evidence given, is not a ground for my taking action under Section 434, although it does show that the Deputy Magistrate's judgment is unsound, and that he cannot appreciate the weight of evidence (this has been the case in other instances). But the second point, *viz.*, that he was entitled to have his other witnesses examined, is a legal ground for proceeding under Section 434. The High Court rulings at page 45 and page 47 of 7 Weekly Reporter are to the effect that the witnesses named in a petition of complaint should be examined before the accused is discharged under Section 250. There are three other witnesses yet unheard *in this* instance. I would suggest that, if it should direct the order of discharge to be set aside, the High Court would be pleased to direct the case to be heard by *another* Magistrate.

Judgment of the High Court.

Glover, J.—We do not think that we need interfere in this matter. The complainant mentioned the names of four witnesses, Radha Gorai, Rammohun, Bhojee, and Kaleepershad; and he was told to bring them with him on a certain date. He brought two whose evidence was recorded. He did not ask the Magistrate to issue summonses on the remaining two, or ask him to proceed under Section 262.

It appears to us that, if these remaining witnesses were not examined, it was the complainant's own fault. Parties should ordinarily be left to bring their own witnesses, and it is only when a complainant cannot ensure their attendance that a Magistrate, after being satisfied that their evidence is necessary, can issue a summons.

In this case no application was made to the Deputy Magistrate, and therefore he was not wrong in law in deciding the case on the evidence before him. Whether he decided rightly or not, is not the question with which we have to deal on this reference.

The 27th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble E. Jackson and W. Ainslie, *Judges.*

Procedure—Accused—Evidence—Recognizance—Breach of the peace—Government.

(Miscellaneous Case.)

Jehan Buksh, *Petitioner.*

Mr. R. E. Twidale for the Petitioner.

In a case in which the accused person cited a number of witnesses, and the evidence already before the Magistrate was contradictory, it was held that the Magistrate should have summoned and examined the witnesses whom the accused wanted to call.

Per Ainslie, J.—In a case in which proceedings are taken for forfeiture of recognizances, the person against whom they are held is competent to give evidence on oath on his own behalf.

Quære.—When recognizances are forfeited, is a Magistrate bound to forfeit the whole amount of the bond, and is the power of reducing the sum to a penalty corresponding to the breach of the peace confined only to the Government?

Jackson, J.—In this case one Jehan Buksh has been convicted of a petty assault in a family-quarrel, and has been sentenced to a fine of 10 rupees, and at the same time recognizances, which he had previously given not to break the peace, to the extent of 500 rupees, have been forfeited, and he has been required to pay those 500 rupees. He has applied to this Court to set aside this order, on the ground that he petitioned the Magistrate to examine a number of witnesses whom he cited to prove that he had not committed the assault, and that the Magistrate refused to accept the petition or send for the witnesses. It appears that there had been contradictory evidence given before the Magistrate as to whether Jehan Buksh had committed the assault, two witnesses deposing he had, and two other witnesses denying his participation in it, and stating that the assault had been committed by other parties, and not by Jehan Buksh. The record does not show that there had been any sifting of this evidence on cross-examination, from which it would be clearly ascertained whether Jehan Buksh had taken part in the assault or not. Under such circumstances, I think that the Magistrate was bound to send for these additional witnesses, and examine them before convicting Jehan Buksh of the assault, the more so as his conviction virtually involved the forfeiture of such heavy recognizances. Jehan Buksh has not applied to this Court to set aside the conviction for assault, but I think that our proper course is to set aside that conviction on the ground of the irregularity I have above alluded to, and at the same time to set aside the forfeiture of the recognizances, and to direct that, if necessary, there shall be a proper trial on the charge of assault; and on its result will depend whether the forfeiture of the recognizances is to take place or not. It may not be necessary then to decide the question whether, when recognizances are forfeited, a Magistrate is bound to forfeit the whole amount of the bond, and that it is only the Government which can reduce the sum to a penalty corresponding to the breach of the peace which has taken place. I admit that I should hesitate very much before coming to any such conclusion, notwithstanding the decision of the Bombay High Court to the contrary. I would therefore set aside the conviction of assault as well as the forfeiture of the recognizances, and order a new trial, if the Magistrate thinks it necessary to take any further steps in the case.

Ainslie, J.—I think the forfeiture of the recognizances should be set aside, and that the petitioner should be allowed to give evidence to show that he is not bound to pay the penalty of the bond. The proceeding to realize the penalty is of the nature of a civil proceeding, and the person against whom it is held is competent to give evidence on oath in his own behalf, and is also entitled to go into evidence. I hold that the conviction of assault is not an estoppel, because the nature of the proceedings is changed, and because the same terms are used in Section 293 in respect of the principal as in Section 294 in respect of the surety, and the surety never had an opportunity of contesting the conviction.

The 27th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

Procedure—Commitment—Section 171, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Midnapore, in the case of Tarraproshad Sahoo.

The plain intention of the Legislature in Section 171 of the Criminal Procedure Code was that the Court before which an offence was committed, and by which the preliminary enquiry was made, should not be the Court to investigate, try, or commit for trial.

Glover, J.—I doubt whether there was any necessity for this reference, so far as the trial of the accused was concerned, inasmuch as the Sessions Judge might, in the terms of Section 169, himself have sanctioned the entertainment of the charge under Section 193 of the Penal Code.

But with regard to the power of the Officiating Joint Magistrate to commit, I think that the Sessions Judge is right, and that the plain intention of the Legislature in Section 171 of the Procedure Code was that the Court before which the offence was committed, and by which the preliminary enquiry was made, should not be the Court to investigate, try, or commit for trial. The ruling in the Queen *versus* Chunder Seekur Roy,* which has certainly been more than once followed by this Court, is quite in point, and the

* 12 W. R., Criminal, p. 18.

principle therein laid down is not dependent on the fact that the committing officer was an Assistant Magistrate only.

The reference made by the Officiating Joint Magistrate to the Criminal Letter (Volume 13, W. R., Criminal Letters, 4) does not assist his view of the case. For not only was the opinion expressed therein not a judicial decision, but it was given, I observe, by the same Judge (Mr. Justice Louis S. Jackson), who afterwards (as that learned Judge himself clearly explains in the case of Queen *versus* Chunder Seekur) saw reason to change his opinion, and to hold that the correct principle was that the Officer before whom an offence of the nature described in Section 193, &c., of the Penal Code, should not be the one to investigate or try the case.

In this particular instance, there would have been no difficulty whatever in procuring the requisite sanction, but in any case it appears to me that the Officiating Joint Magistrate was not the proper person to commit the case to the Sessions.

Kemp, J.—I concur.

The 30th May 1871.

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, F. B. Kemp, J. B. Phear, A. G. Macpherson, and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges*.

Whipping—Punishment—Section 46, Code of Criminal Procedure—Act VI. of 1864.

Reference to the High Court, under Section 434 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Backergunge.

Moniruddeen Shamadar and another

versus

Gour Chunder Shamadar.

HELD (*Kemp and Phear*, JJ., dissenting) that, notwithstanding Section 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a person convicted at the same time of two or more offences punishable under the Penal Code may, in addition to the punishments prescribed by the Penal Code, be sentenced to whipping under Act VI. of 1864. The Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure must be read as if the Whipping Act formed a part of the Penal Code from the date of its enactment, and Section 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is applicable to all offences and punishments as prescribed by the Penal Code in its present and amended form.

This case was referred to the Full Bench by Norman, C. J., and Loch, J., with the following remarks:—

Norman, C. J.—On the morning of the 9th Choitro, Gour Chunder Shamadar carried off a cow belonging to Moniruddeen under circumstances which, in the opinion of the Magistrate, constituted the offence of theft. On the evening of the same day Moniruddeen went to complain to the talookdar whose ryot he is.

Gour Chunder, who lives near the talookdar, on seeing Moniruddeen, seized him, carried him inside the verandah of his house, and beat him.

Gopal Shamadar, hearing the outcries of Moniruddeen, remonstrated with Gour Chunder, upon which Gour Chunder attacked Gopal, and struck him with a lattee, breaking his arm.

The Magistrate convicted Gour Chunder on three charges: 1st, of theft; 2nd, of illegal confinement of Moniruddeen; and, 3rd, of causing grievous hurt to Gopal Shamadar.

For the first offence Gour Chunder was sentenced to and received twenty stripes; for the second, to one month's rigorous imprisonment; and for the third, to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

The Judge, with reference to the sentence of one month's imprisonment, with respect to which there is no appeal, has sent the case before this Court.

I am of opinion that the rule laid down in the 9th Weekly Reporter, Criminal, p. 41, Nassir *versus* Chunder and others, requires further consideration, and that the question of the legality of the sentences should be referred to a Full Bench.

The following are the judgments of the Full Bench:—

Norman, C. J.—Gour Chunder Shamadar was tried by the Magistrate of Backergunge, and convicted at the same time of three totally distinct and separate offences. He was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for the offence of wrongful confinement under Section 342, six months' imprisonment for the offence of voluntarily causing grievous hurt under Section 325, and to whipping with 20 stripes for the offence of theft as defined in Section 378 of the Penal Code.

Each of these sentences, taken by itself, is a legal punishment for the offence in respect of

which it was pronounced. As regards the sentence of whipping, the 2nd Section of Act VI. of 1864 enacts that whoever commits any of the following offences, of which theft is one, may be punished with *whipping* in lieu of any punishment to which he may for *such offence* be liable under the Indian Penal Code. The punishment of whipping was therefore legally substituted for the punishment to which Gour Chunder would have been liable for the offence of theft.

If the trial for each offence had taken place separately, there would have been no possible doubt of the legality of the three separate sentences.

Let us now see on what principle it can be said that if, instead of trying the charges separately, a Criminal Court of competent jurisdiction tries the prisoner on the three charges at the same time, it is incompetent to pronounce that the accused shall suffer for each offence the penalty prescribed by the law.

I leave aside for the moment the question of the jurisdiction of the Magistrate, to which I propose to come hereafter.

Sir Barnes Peacock says: "The question is "whether, if a person is convicted at the "same time of two or more offences punish-"able under the Indian Penal Code, it is law-"ful for the Court, in addition to the penalties "prescribed by the Penal Code, to sentence "the prisoner to whipping."

I confess I do not understand why not, if the sentence for each offence is itself legal.

The 1st Section of Act VI. of 1864 enacts that, in addition to the punishment prescribed in Section 53 of the Indian Penal Code, offenders are also liable to whipping under the provisions of that Code.

Sir Barnes Peacock refers to Section 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. He says: "It does not say that when a prisoner shall be "convicted of two or more offences it shall be "lawful for the Court to sentence such per-"son for the offences for which he shall have "been convicted to the several penalties pre-"scribed by any subsequent Act."

He assumes what Mr. Justice Phear states more directly—that "a Magistrate" (or Criminal Court, for the same argument must apply to all Criminal Courts) "cannot pass simul-"taneously several sentences which shall take "effect in succession to one another. That "provision is given solely by the Code of "Criminal Procedure." Again, he says: "I "think a Magistrate has no power to inflict "a succession of punishments, except under "the provisions of Section 46 of the Code of "Criminal Procedure."

Now, by Section 22, a Magistrate is declared competent to pass sentence in respect of the offences triable by him within the limit of imprisonment of either description not exceeding the term of two years, including such solitary confinement as is authorized by law, or fine to the extent of Rupees 1,000, or both imprisonment and fine, in all cases in which both punishments are authorized by the Indian Penal Code.

Suppose Section 46 had never been enacted, and a Magistrate, having convicted a prisoner of theft and violent assault on the police attempting to arrest him, had sentenced him to six months' imprisonment for each offence, the second sentence to take effect at the expiration of the first. What objection would there be to the sentence?

The amount of punishment would be within the limit which the Magistrate was competent to inflict, and in each case a sentence of imprisonment for six months would be legal.

It is not easy to understand why the prisoner should not suffer the full penalty of the offences committed by him.

If the sentences would be illegal, it must be because there is some rule of law which prevents a judicial officer from passing a sentence of imprisonment to take effect in future after the expiration of an existing sentence, or sentence for another offence pronounced at the same time.

The question was raised upon a writ of error argued in the House of Lords in the year 1769 in the case of John Wilkes *vs.* the King, 4 Brown's Parliamentary Cases, p. 367, also reported in 4 Burrow's Reports, p. 2577, where the House of Lords, affirming the judgment of the Court of King's Bench, in accordance with the unanimous opinion of the Judges, held that a sentence of imprisonment against a defendant to commence from and after the determination of an imprisonment to which he was before sentenced for another offence was good in law. See also 1 Chitty's Criminal Law, p. 718.

In my opinion, it is clear that Section 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (which is analogous to the English enactment 7 and 8

eo. IV., C. 26, Section 10, and to the 23rd ction of the 9 Geo. IV., C. 74, rendered applible to offences under the Penal Code triable the original side of the High Court by t XVIII. of 1862), was not necessary in der to create, but was passed in order to gulate and extend, the power of Courts in asing such sentences.

Sir Barnes Peacock thinks that Section 46 ust be construed strictly, and treats it as not plying to penalties imposed by any subsenent Act.

I confess I do not understand that view the case. It seems to me that Section 46 a general Code of Criminal Procedure is plicable, not only to offences created by the nal Code, but presumably to all offences crea-d by subsequent legislation, and that, if Secn 46 does not apply to offences or penalties ated after the passing of the Code of Crinal Procedure, the same argument must apy to any other portion of that Code. From e date of the passing of Act VI. of 1864, ipping is made one of the penalties which the Indian Penal Code are prescribed for e punishment of offenders. I think that e Indian Penal Code and the Code of Crinal Procedure must be read as if the Whipng Act formed a part of the Penal Code m the date of its enactment. In passing sentence of whipping, a Magistrate is not ercising any *extraordinary* jurisdiction. It a sentence which, since the passing of Act I. of 1864, he is competent to inflict in the ercise of his ordinary jurisdiction. I think plain that we must read Section 46 as applying to all offences and punishments as preribed by the Indian Penal Code in its preent and amended form.

The 46th Section consists of two parts or clauses—the first part an empowering or enbling clause, the power being limited by the cond part or proviso. The first clause is as ollows: "When a person shall be convicted "at one time of two or more offences punish-"able under the same or different Sections of "the Indian Penal Code, it shall be lawful "for the Court to sentence such person for the "offences of which he shall have been convicted "to the several penalties prescribed by the said "Code which such Court is competent to in-"flict; such penalties, when consisting of "imprisonment, to commence the one after "the expiration of the other. It shall not "be necessary for the Court, by reason only "of the aggregate punishment for the seve-"ral offences being in excess of the punishment which such Court is competent to "inflict on conviction of a single offence, to "send the offender for trial before a higher "Court."

Under the first clause, reading it according to its grammatical construction, when a prisoner has been convicted of several offences, a Criminal Court competent to inflict the penalty of whipping is competent to punish one of such offences with whipping—that being one of "the several penalties prescribed by the Code," and other offences with other of "the "several penalties prescribed by the Code"—such as imprisonment or the like.

Then come the qualifications or provisoes, the second of which we have to deal with: "Provided that, if the case be tried by a "Magistrate, the punishment shall not, in "the aggregate, exceed twice the amount of "punishment which such Magistrate is by his "ordinary jurisdiction competent to inflict."

The limit of the power of imprisonment possessed by the Magistrate of the District is two years, and fine to the extent of one thousand rupees.

A Magistrate, before the passing of the Whipping Act, under Section 46 could have sentenced an offender convicted at the same time of several offences to an aggregate of punishment amounting to four years' imprisonment and fines amounting to Rs. 2,000.

Since the passing of the Whipping Act, the Magistrate has the power to inflict whipping in lieu of imprisonment for certain offences. If Section 46 does not apply to punishment under the Whipping Act, the only question as to such sentence would be whether it is a legal punishment for the offence for which it is to be inflicted. The limitation under Section 46 of the Magistrate's power would not apply to a sentence of whipping. But if Section 46 does apply, as I think it does, the punishment in the present case is clearly warranted by it.

The Magistrate of a District has power to inflict two years' imprisonment, with whipping in certain cases, or whipping in lieu of imprisonment in others.

Twice that would be four years' imprisonment with (or in lieu thereof) two whippings. One whipping and seven months' imprisonment is clearly within the limit of twice the amount of imprisonment which the Magistrate was competent to inflict.

I am therefore of opinion that the sentences upon the prisoner Gour Chunder are not

illegal. I do not discuss the question whether a Magistrate has power to inflict two whippings. That depends entirely on the construction of the Whipping Act. I confess I do not think it presents much difficulty.

Loch, J.—I concur in the view taken by the Chief Justice that Act VI. of 1864 should be read as part of the Penal Code, though there are no express words to that effect in the Act. It appears, however, to me, from the preamble to the Act, as well as from the wording of Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, that this view is correct. Whipping was a punishment excluded from the list of punishments prescribed by the Penal Code. It has been added to that list by Act VI. of 1864; and this punishment is to be inflicted, as shown by Sections 2 and 3 of the Act, in lieu of, or in addition to, any punishment prescribed by the Penal Code. I would therefore read the Code, as Mr. Justice Jackson did on a former occasion when this question was before the Court, *e. g.*, I would read the punishment prescribed for theft as follows: Whoever commits theft shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or to fine or both, or with whipping in lieu of, or in addition to, other punishment, as the case may be; and so on in other cases where the offence is made punishable with whipping under Act VI. of 1864. A party convicted of theft for the first time would be liable to be whipped in lieu of other punishment. If convicted of theft a second time, he would be liable to whipping in addition to a sentence of imprisonment and fine. If, then, a prisoner be tried at one time for two or more offences, one of which involves the punishment of whipping in lieu of, or in addition to, the punishment of imprisonment, what sufficient reason is there that he should not be sentenced in each case to the penalty prescribed for each offence? If a man have committed theft, and in resisting a neighbour of the party robbed he inflicts grievous hurt, why should the offender not suffer for both offences? It is clear that he might be punished with imprisonment for the theft, and with imprisonment for the grievous hurt, and under the provisions of Section 46, Criminal Procedure Code, the period of imprisonment in one case would commence from the close of the period in the other; but why, if whipping have been added to the punishments prescribed by the Penal Code, should not the offender be punished with whipping in lieu of other punishment for the first offence, and with imprisonment for the second? or if he have been convicted of theft more than once, why should he not be punished with whipping in addition (Section 3, Act VI. of 1864) to any other punishment prescribed by the Code, and also to imprisonment for the other offence? and if the punishment in the first case be whipping in addition to imprisonment, the punishment of imprisonment awarded in the second case would, under the provisions of Section 46 of the Criminal Procedure Code, commence on the expiration of the other. Reading, as I do, Act VI. of 1864 as part of the Penal Code, I must confess that I see no sufficient reason for holding that, if a Magistrate proceeds under Section 46 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, he must confine his sentence *strictly* within its provisions.

Bayley, J.—I think the Magistrate's acts are not illegal. The Whipping Act does not preclude punishment for those offences to which it is applicable, such as theft here: and because a man is punished according to law with whipping for theft, I do not see why he should not be punished for assault and grievous hurt when he commits those distinct and separate offences, as in this case. I see nothing in the law against this view.

Kemp, J.—I think that the view taken by the late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes Peacock, and by Mr. Justice Phear (see Volume 9 Weekly Reporter, Criminal Rulings, p. 143) is correct.

Macpherson, J.—I remain of the same opinion which I expressed at length in the case of Nassir (9 Weekly Reporter, page 41, Criminal); and I have no doubt in my own mind that the sentences passed on the prisoner Gour Chunder are legal.

Mitter, J.—I am of opinion that the view taken by the Chief Justice and by Mr. Justice Macpherson is correct. The reasons in support of that view have been so fully gone into by those learned Judges that it would be mere waste of time on my part to repeat them.

Phear, J.—I regret very much that I cannot bring myself to agree with the majority of my colleagues in this case. I am unable to perceive error in the view taken by Sir Barnes Peacock and myself on the occasion which has been referred to. It still appears to me that a multiple punishment inflicted by one sentence is essentially different in its character and effect from the aggregate result of the punishments which are its factors, supposed to be separated from each other by an interval of time. I take it that no Judge of

ound discretion, if called upon to accumulate punishment for different offences, would award each punishment precisely in the same manner as he would if the corresponding offence were alone under his consideration. For instance, if a man was convicted at one time of three thefts, for each of which, if it stood single, one year's imprisonment might be an appropriate punishment, I suppose that the convicting officer would not for a moment think that, therefore, the aggregate of three years was the right punishment for the three offences. The whole of Section 46 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and especially the proviso in the latter part of it, appears to me to show beyond question that the Legislature held the view which I endeavour to express, namely, that a punishment effected by accumulation of penalties is not merely a set of separate punishments.

Then also the words of the Whipping Act seem to me to make it as plain as can be that the Legislature, in giving Criminal Courts the power which they did not before possess, of inflicting the punishment of whipping, intended, for reasons which may be easily conjectured, carefully to limit its application. I cannot see in the Act the smallest indication that the Legislature contemplated whipping as by any possibility becoming under the Act an element in any punishment, except under the circumstances which are therein expressly mentioned. On the contrary, the language of the Act, coupled with the elaborately detailed form of its various provisions, leads me to think that the Legislature only meant that whipping should be associated with another punishment, in the particular cases of which express mention is made. But if the Whipping Act does in truth apply, not only to single sentences, but also to each constituent factor of an accumulated sentence, such as is the subject of Section 46 of the Criminal Procedure Code, whipping may be lawfully associated with other punishments even in cases of minor offences not committed after previous conviction; a result which certainly seems to me diametrically opposed to the unmistakable spirit of the Act itself. Thus, if a boy were convicted of stealing two mangoes belonging to one owner, he could not be both whipped and also imprisoned. The whipping, if inflicted, must, by the words of the Act, be in *lieu* of any other punishment. But if it were proved that one mango belonged to one owner, and the second to another, the Magistrate might, on the principle now maintained, convict for two offences, and in this way both imprison and whip. I cannot believe that the Legislature, against the very spirit of the Act, intended to leave a discretion of this sort to the Judicial Officer. Before the Whipping Act was passed, he certainly had not uncontrolled discretion in the matter of accumulating such punishment as then existed. Section 46 expressly restricted him in this respect; and I think the consequence is that since that Section at any rate he has had no other power of accumulating punishment than is given him either by that or by some subsequent enactment. In the case which has been cited I gave at length my reason for coming to the conclusion that the punishment of whipping was not included among the punishments which a Judicial Officer could accumulate in the event of simultaneous conviction for several offences. To the opinion which I then expressed I still adhere, and therefore I need not now discuss this question again.

C

States what cases should be entered in Col. 2 of Magistrates' Statement D—Explains when an accused person is said to be under trial—The new forms make no alteration in the meaning of the words "discharged without trial."

Extracts (paras. 3, 4, and 5) from Letter No. 125, dated 4th February 1871, from the Registrar of the High Court, to the Magistrate of 24-Pergunnahs.

3. As regards your 3rd paragraph, I am to inform you that all cases that used to be entered in Col. 2 of the old Statement No. 1, Part I., under the heading "Number of Crimes ascertained to have been committed," must be entered in Col. 2 of the Statement D. For further instructions you are referred to Rule 13 of the Rules for the preparation of Magistrates' Statements.

4. In reply to the inquiry in your 4th para., namely, "When is an accused person said first to be under trial?" I am to refer you to Rule 15 of the Magistrates' Rules, as explained by Rules 91 and 94, from which you will see that the number of persons brought to trial in any period is "identical with the number apprehended or attending on summons." All such and such alone are "under trial" until their cases are finally disposed of.

5. With regard to para. 5 of your letter, I am to observe that the new form makes no alteration in the significance of the words "discharged without trial," as previously understood and fully explained in para. 4 of Circular order No. 18, dated 15th September 1864, cited on the margin for facility of reference. The persons entered as discharged in the forms hitherto in use are the persons to be shown as discharged in the new form.

Col. 15 discharged under Sections 225 and 250 of Code of Criminal Procedure.

"Col. 15 will provide for persons discharged without trial under Chapters XII. and XIV., Code of Criminal Procedure."

Explains the intention of the words "each Criminal Court" in Circular No. 1, dated 11th January 1871.

Letter No. 186, dated the 1st March 1871, from the Registrar of the High Court to the Magistrate of Moorshedabad.

In reply to your office-letter No. 1925, dated the 7th ultimo, in which inquiry is made as to the intention of the words "each Criminal Court" in Circular Order No. 1, dated the 11th January last,* I am directed to state that the Court, in explanation of the Circular Order, desires it to be understood that it is not intended that, when more than one officer is exercising the functions of a Magistrate at any place, every such officer should keep a separate register; but that, for the purposes of the Circular Order, every such Magistrate's Court should be regarded as a branch of the principal Magistrate's Court at the same station, the register remaining in the custody of such principal Magistrate.

* *Infra*, Crim. Cirs., p. 1.

An appeal lies in all cases where a sentence of imprisonment and fine is passed, although both punishments be within the limits laid down in Section 411 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Letter No. 338, dated the 2nd May 1871, from the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to the Officiating Sessions Judge of Rungpore.

Present:

The Hon'ble H. V. Bayley and Dwarkanath Mitter, *Judges.*

WITH advertence to your letter No. 9, dated the 14th ultimo, soliciting instructions as to whether, with reference to the terms of Section 411 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, an appeal will lie where the sentence is one of imprisonment not exceeding one month and a fine not exceeding fifty rupees, I am directed to observe that the Court (Bayley and Mitter, JJ.), as at present advised, in giving its opinion on this as a reference only, thinks that an appeal will lie in all cases where the sentence of imprisonment and fine is passed, although both the punishments be within the limits laid down in Section 411.

All questions put by a Magistrate and answers thereto should be recorded. Course to be pursued under Section 205, Code of Criminal Procedure, in recording statement of the accused and in the Magistrate attesting such statements.

Letter No. 396, dated the 19th May 1871, from the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to the Sessions Judge of Hooghly.

Present:

The Hon'ble F. B. Kemp and F. A. Glover, *Judges.*

IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 46, dated the 13th instant, I am directed to state, with advertence to the 3rd paragraph thereof, that every question and every answer is to be recorded. The Section makes no exception in favor of irrelevant questions. The Magistrate is responsible for putting such questions; but, if they are put, they must be recorded, as also must be the answers, where answers are given.

2. There is nothing, as the Court have already remarked, in Section 205, Code of Criminal Procedure, which makes it necessary to record in the body of the examination that the accused declares that what he has caused to be written is conformable to the truth. The Magistrate's attestation, at the bottom of the examination, is sufficient *primâ-facie* proof that every thing has been properly done in accordance with the terms of the Section, and this would include the reading over to the accused the whole of his statement, the allowing him to add to or explain it, and the taking from him an acknowledgment that what was written had been recorded conformably to what he said was the truth.

3. No Magistrate, the Court supposes, would deem himself at liberty to sign the attestation required by law, if he had not previously satisfied himself that the accused had had every thing in his examination thoroughly explained to him, and every opportunity of making it what he said was the truth. If a Sessions Judge has doubts as to the way in which the examination of an accused person has been taken, notwithstanding the Magistrate's attestation, he can call for evidence on the point.

tructs officers to arrange with the Account-nt-General, Bengal, for funds for transmitting udicial records through the post.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 1.

om the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Civil and Sessions Judges and Magistrates of Districts, dated Calcutta, the 4th January 1871.

(Civil and Criminal Sides.)

Present:

e Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges*.

THE Government of India having decided* that the charge for transmitting judicial records through the post from one Court to another shall be, as heretofore, borne by the State, and the new Post Office Rules† requiring pre-yment of banghy postage whenever that ode of transmission is adopted, the Court ects that all Civil and Sessions Judges and strict Magistrates will put themselves in mmunication with the Accountant-General Bengal, with a view to provision being ade for the funds necessary to meet the requirements of the rules above mentioned.

Government Order, ancial Department, 3118, dated 21st Noember 1870.

Vide page 498, *Calta Gazette* of 16th rch 1870.

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

Directs that all orders for attachment of estates for arrears of revenue be notified to the Collector in whose district the estate lies.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 2.

From the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners, dated Calcutta, the 10th January 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges*.

THE Court directs that all orders by all Civil Courts for the attachment of estates and shares of estates for the recovery of arrears or demands of the descriptions mentioned under Section 5, Act XI. of 1859, shall be immediately notified to the Collector of the district within which such estates or shares of estates are situated.

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

Draws attention to the provisions of the Court Fees Act which require the cancellation of stamps.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 3.

From the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Civil Authorities in the Lower Provinces, dated Calcutta, the 17th January 1871.

(Civil Side).

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges*.

THE attention of all Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court is drawn to the provisions of Section 30 of the Court Fees Act (VII.) of 1870, prohibiting the use, in any proceeding, of any document requiring a stamp under that Act until such stamp has been cancelled, and prescribing the mode in which cancellation is to be effected.

2. The Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court are at the same time directed, at the suggestion of the Government of India, to cause the labels affixed to documents *issued* by them, and liable to a fee under the Act, to be cancelled *at the time that they are affixed*—such a course being calculated to protect the revenue and prevent all evasions of the law.

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

Corrigendum to be made in letter to Superintendent of Stationery, circulated with Circular Memo. No. 7, dated 17th December 1870.

CIVIL CIRCULAR MEMO. No. 1.

From the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, dated Calcutta, the 17th January 1871.

(Civil Side).

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge*.

WITH reference to Court's letter No. 381 dated 17th December 1870, to the Superintendent of Stationery, copy of which was forwarded by their Circular Memorandum No. 7* to all Zillah Judges and District Magistrates, the following corrigendum is circulated for information and guidance of those Officers:—

Page 2, line 3,

For

"Twelve copies"

Read

"Twenty copies."

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

* 14 W. R., Civil Circulars, 43.

nstructions regarding the submission of the Annual Reports of Civil Justice.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 4.

From the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Zillah Judges, dated Calcutta, the 2nd February 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

THE recent Circular Order, dated 8th November 1870, No. 32,* by which new forms of Annual Statements are prescribed, having provided no form for the submission of the Annual Reports, the following directions are now issued for the guidance of all Zillah Judges in supersession of previous orders on the same subject:—

I. Report on the Administration of Civil Justice.

This report will present the main features of the year's administration under the heads, and in the Tabular shapes following:—

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Table showing the Suits instituted, disposed of, and pending in the past year, as compared with the preceding year.

	INSTITUTED.		DISPOSED OF.		PENDING.	
	1869.	1870.	1869.	1870.	1869.	1870.
Increase						
Decrease						

Table showing Suits commenced and Suits disposed of in 1870, and pending at the close of that year, in the various Courts of the Districts.

	Commenced.	Disposed of.	Pending.
Judge			
Additional Judge			
Subordinate Judge			
2nd Subordinate Judge			
Moonsiff of			
Moonsiff of			

NOTE.—A suit transferred to another Court is not thereby disposed of.

* 14 W. R., Civil Circulars, p. 25.

Table showing Number and Value of Suits of different kinds commenced in all Courts of the District in the past, as compared with the preceding, year.

Description of Suits.	No. in 1869.	No. in 1870.	Value, 1869.	Value, 1870.
Suits of Small Cause Court Class ...				
Rent Suits				
Other Suits				
Increase				
Decrease				

Table showing Miscellaneous Cases of a judicial nature, other than Regular Suits or Proceedings in execution, disposed of by, and pending in, each of the Courts in—

	Disposed of.		Pending.	
	1869.	1870.	1869.	1870.
Zillah Judge				
Additional Judge...				
Subordinate Judge				
2nd Subordinate Judge				
Moonsiff of				
Moonsiff of				

Table showing Number of Decrees completely and partially executed in 1870 in the several Courts of the District.

	Completely.	Partially.	Amounts realized.
Zillah Judge			
Additional Judge			
Subordinate Judge			
2nd Subordinate Judge			
Moonsiff of			
Moonsiff of			

d

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

Table showing Appeals from Decisions in Original Suits instituted in the District, disposed of, and pending in the past year, as compared with the preceding.

APPEALS.	Instituted.		Disposed of								Pending.							
	1869.	1870.	1869.				1870.				1869.				1870.			
	In Zillah Court.	In Zillah Courts.	Judge.	Subordinate Judge.	and Subordinate Judge.	S. C. Court Judge, with powers of Subordinate Judge.	Judge.	Subordinate Judge.	and Subordinate Judge.	S. C. Court Judge, with powers of Subordinate Judge.	Judge.	Subordinate Judge.	and Subordinate Judge.	S. C. Court Judge, with powers of Subordinate Judge.	Judge.	Subordinate Judge.	and Subordinate Judge.	S. C. Court Judge, with powers of Subordinate Judge.
Increase																		
Decrease																		

Table showing the Number of Appeals preferred to Zillah Courts from each of the Subordinate Courts in the District, the ratio of Appeals to Decisions, the Number of Decisions affirmed, and ratio of affirmed to decided.

Appeals from	Appeals preferred.	Ratio of Appeals to Decisions.	Number of Decisions affirmed.	Ratio of affirmed to decided.
Subordinate Judge				
and Subordinate Judge				
Small Cause Court Judge, with powers of Subordinate Judge...				
Moonsiff of				
Moonsiff of				

Similar Statements for Miscellaneous Appeals of all kinds.

Apposite observations as to increase or decrease of business, or the like, to accompany each Table where necessary.

These Tables to be followed by a report on the condition of the Judicial Buildings, the Records of the several Courts, the Judge's Library, and the Securities of those public officers from whom security is required.

The character, qualifications, and official merits of the several Subordinate Judges and principal Ministerial Officers to be made the subject of a separate report, in which the work done by, and the résult of appeal from, such officers are to be analyzed and commented upon, only as aids to forming a judgment as to their respective deserts and fitness for promotion, or continuance in the public service. This, however, is not to debar Zillah Judges from recording in their Administration Reports any instance of special and distinguished merit on the part of any of their subordinates, which they consider deserving of conspicuous mention, and entitling the person indicated to the favourable notice of the Court or of Government.

By Order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

e

Prescribes new forms of Annual Statements for Small Cause Court Judges, for submission to the Zillah Judges.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 5.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Judges of Courts of Small Causes, dated Calcutta, the 25th February 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

THE Court directs that Judges of Small Cause Courts will submit annual returns of their work to the Judges of the Districts in which their Courts are respectively situated in the four forms appended hereto,* in supersession of the returns hitherto made to the Court direct under the provisions of Circular Order No. 12, dated 19th December 1862. The returns now prescribed will begin with the work of the past year, 1870.

* Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 10 (Judicial).

2. These instructions will not interfere with the *monthly* returns Nos. 1 and 2, prescribed by the same Circular Order, which will continue to be made to the High Court as heretofore.

By order of the High Court,

(Sd.) W. M. SOUTTAR,

Offg. Registrar.

Judicial Statements—6—(Small Cause Courts).

STATEMENT showing the number and description of civil suits instituted in the Court of Small Causes at in the year 18 .

CLASS OF TRIBUNALS.	On written obligation.		On unwritten.		On account stated.		Money had and received.		Goods sold.		Breach of contract not mentioned above.		Rent not falling under the Rent Law.		Moveable property or value thereof.		Damages.		Remarks.
	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	Rs. 500 and under.	Above Rs. 500.	

Judicial Statement—7—(Small Cause Courts).

STATEMENT showing value of suits disposed of in the Court of Small Causes at in the year 18 .

VALUE OF SUITS.	Number of suits disposed of in Small Cause Court.	REMARKS.
Not exceeding Rupees 5		
,, ,, ,, 20		
,, ,, ,, 100		
,, ,, ,, 500		

Judicial Statement—8—(Small Cause Courts).

STATEMENT showing the general result of the trial of suits in the Court of Small Causes at in the year 18 .

CLASS OF COURTS.	Suits remaining from last year.	Instituted in 18 .	Received by transfer.	Total for disposal.	Transferred to other Courts.	Plaint rejected or returned.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn with leave.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed *ex parte*.	Dismissed *ex parte*.	CONTESTED.		Total disposed of.	Pending.	Over 2 months.	Over 4 months.	AVERAGE DURATION OF SUITS.		Referred to arbitration.	REMARKS.
													Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for defendant.					Contested.	Uncontested.		

Judicial Statement—10—(Small Cause Courts).

STATEMENT showing the execution of the decrees of the Court of Small Causes at in the year 18 .

CLASS OF COURTS.	APPLICATIONS TO EXECUTE DECREES.				Decrees completely executed.	Decrees partially executed.	Pending at the end of	Decrees executed by possession being given.	NATURE AND NUMBER OF COERCIVE PROCESSES ISSUED.						REMARKS.
									Imprisonment of person.	MOVEABLE PROPERTY.		IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY.		Orders under Section 243, Code of Procedure.	
	Pending.	Filed.	Received by transfer.	Total.						Attached.	Sold.	Attached.	Sold.		

Requests Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners to satisfy themselves that evidence is properly recorded by the subordinate Courts in cases under Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859.

CIVIL CIRCULAR ORDER No. 6.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners, dated Calcutta, the 17th March 1869.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

An instance having been brought to the notice of the High Court of culpable carelessness and negligence on the part of a Moonsiff in hearing witnesses, and recording evidence in cases under Section 15, Act XIV. of 1859, which misconduct has since led to the removal of the Moonsiff from office, the attention of Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners is drawn to the necessity of satisfying themselves that evidence is properly recorded in such cases. The Court directs that Judges on their inspection-tours will give special attention to the subject, and that they will not omit to notice it in their report.

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) W. M. SOUTTAR,

Officiating Registrar.

Encloses Circular from the Post-Master-General regarding postage on Parcels.

CIVIL CIRCULAR ORDER No. 7.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Civil Authorities, dated Calcutta, the 22nd March 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

The accompanying copy of a Circular letter No. 95, dated the 30th December, issued by the Post-Master-General of Bengal, and based upon the Financial Resolution of the Government of India, No. 3118, dated 21st November 1870, is hereby circulated for the information and guidance of all Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court, in supersession of Circular Order No. 1, dated the 4th January last,* which was issued before the Court had received intimation of the instructions now notified, and which is hereby cancelled.

By Order, &c.,

(Sd.) W. M. SOUTTAR,

Offg. Registrar.

(From J. Tweedie, Esq., *Officiating Post-Master-General of Bengal, to all Post Office Officials—Circular No.* $\frac{95}{\text{L. M. 10, No. 5}}$, *dated Fort William, the 30th December 1870.)*

Postage on Parcels which contain *records in transmission through the post from one Court to another* is no longer to be charged either by stamps or in cash to sender or to addressee.

2. All other kinds of Parcels hitherto chargeable under Rule 25 of the rules regarding official correspondence will be charged, as usual, under that rule.

* *Ante*, p. 1.

ulates amended copy of Circular requiring ders of Civil Courts regarding attachments estates to be notified to Collector of Dis- ct in which estates are situated.

MEMO. No. 2.

HE accompanying copy of Circular Order 2, dated 10th January 1871, should be tituted for the copy previously issued, h should be destroyed.

By Order, &c.,

(Signed) W. M. SOUTTAR,

Offg. Registrar.

IGH COURT: 3rd April 1871.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 2.

m the Registrar of the High Court of udicature at Fort William in Bengal, to ll Zillah Judges and Judicial Commission- rs, dated Calcutta, the 10th January 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

he Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

THE Court directs that all orders by all ivil Courts for the attachment of estates and hares of estates shall be immediately notified to the Collector of the district within which such estates or shares of estates are situated.

By order of the High Court.

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

Prescribes new rules for the Police when employed in escorting remittances made by Moonsiffs.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 8.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners, dated Calcutta, the 6th April 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

I AM directed to forward herewith, for your information and guidance and for communication to the Moonsiffs subject to your control, the amended Rule given below, which has been framed at the instance of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for the guidance of the Police employed on escort-duty in connection with remittances made by Moonsiffs, and to state that the present instructions should be regarded as superseding those conveyed in Circular Order No. 9, dated 13th July 1868,* which is hereby cancelled.

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) W. M. SOUTTAR,

Officiating Registrar.

* W. R., Civil Circulars.

AMENDED RULE.

Rule 26.—Where Moonsiffs' Courts exist, a day in each month will be fixed by the Judge on which the money will be paid over to the Police for transmission to the treasury.

Clause I.—The Moonsiff will give notice at the police-station on the day before the guard is required, and the police-officer in charge will himself, on the day appointed, proceed to the Moonsiff's Cutcherry with a guard as directed in the above instructions.

Clause II.—The money will then be counted in the presence of the officer in charge of the guard and placed in a bag, which will then and there be sealed and made over to the guard, who will forthwith proceed with it to the treasury or sub-divisional treasury. The officer in charge will be furnished with a memorandum of the amount.

Clause III.—The police-officer will cause the bag and seal to be inspected in his presence by the treasury-officer to whom it is addressed; and while held responsible for the total amount in the bag, he will not, provided the bag and seal show no signs of being tampered with, be called on to replace any light or spurious coin that it may contain.

Clause IV.—The above rules apply to small remittances made by Moonsiffs in bags. Larger remittances will be sent more securely packed.

Clause V.—The provisions of paragraphs 12 and 18* apply equally to the transport of all remittances from Moonsiffs' Courts. If a remittance be in copper coin, and exceeds six seers and one pow in weight, coolie labor should be employed.

Clause VI.—Should any necessity arise for a second remittance during the month, the same course will be pursued on due notice being given at the police-station.

* For paragraphs 12 and 18 See next col.

"12.—Under ordinary circumstances the strength of escorts shall be as follows:—

For Prisoners.

For 1 to 3 prisoners, 2 constables.

For 4 to 6 prisoners, 3 constables.

* Of these, one man to act as head constable.

For 7 to 12 prisoners, 1 head constable and 4 constables.

For 13 to 18 prisoners, 1 head constable and 6 constables.

For 19 to 24 prisoners, 1 head constable and 8 constables, and so on in proportion.

For Prisoners.

N. B.—When a guard of more than 8 men is deemed necessary, additional head constables should be allowed in proportion.

For Treasure.

For sums not exceeding Rs. 30, a single constable of known integrity and trustworthiness.

N. B.—If such an officer be not available, two constables should be sent.

For any amount above Rs. 30, and not exceeding Rs. 250, two constables.

For Rs. 250 and up to Rs. 500, three constables

N. B.—One of these should act as head constable.

When the sum of money transmitted under the escort of the police does not exceed Rs. 500, it should be carried by the police themselves without the employment of coolie labor.

For any amount above Rs. 500, and not exceeding Rs. 1,000, four constables.

N. B.—One of these should act as head constable.

For any sum above Rs. 1,000, and not exceeding Rs. 10,000, a regular guard of at least one head constable and four constables.

For upwards of Rs. 10,000 and not more than one lakh, one head constable and eight constables.

For one to two lakhs, two head constables and twelve to sixteen constables.

Above two lakhs, one Sub-Inspector and two head constables, and sixteen to twenty constables, and so on, for each lakh above two lakhs, four constables in addition, and officers in proportion.

For Treasure.

When treasure is escorted by rail, a head constable and two constables are deemed sufficient, but during the transit of the treasure to the railway van or from it, a proper guard of full strength as above must be provided.

When treasure is conveyed by steamer, a guard of one head constable and six armed constables should be detailed with any amount not exceeding one lakh The men should furnish one sentry by day and two by night if necessary. With a despatch of treasure exceeding one lakh, the guard should be increased in proportion up to a maximum of twelve constables.

"18.—All arrangements as regards carriage will devolve upon the officer to whom the escort is supplied, and will not in any way form part of the duty of the police. Prisoners and treasures should not, unless under special circumstances, be sent together."

lls for information regarding remuneration of Nazirs when conducting sales in execution of decrees.

CIVIL CIRCULAR MEMO. No. 3.

rom the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners, dated Calcutta, the 26th April 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble G. Loch, *Judge.*

I am directed to request you will be so good to state for the information of the Court hat the practice is in the Courts of your dis-ict, as regards the remuneration of the azir when he conducts sales in execution f decrees of Court. Is he allowed any re-uneration, at what rate, and from what ource is it derived?

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ssues instructions regarding the service of writs of summons and of notices of appeals.

CIRCULAR ORDER No. 9

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Zillah Judges and Judicial Commissioners, dated Calcutta, the 6th April 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice,* and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, F. B. Kemp, L. S. Jackson, E. Jackson, F. A. Glover, D. N. Mitter, W. Ainslie, G. C. Paul, and O. C. Mookerjee, *Judges.*

The returns transmitted by the local Courts of the service of writs of summons and of notices of the hearing of appeals issued by the High Court for service within the jurisdiction of local Courts are, in many instances, so insufficient as to necessitate postponements, the re-transmission of such process for further proof, or the issue and transmission of fresh process for service.

2. The Courts frequently send up nothing but the Nazir's return, which is often no more than a mere report of oral statements made to him by others as to the mode of service. Such returns, without proof of the statements contained therein, are of no value.

3. By the Civil Procedure Code, whenever it is necessary that summons should be served beyond the limits of the jurisdiction of the Court which issued it, the Court which is called upon to serve the summons is, by Section 59, placed in the same situation as if it had itself issued the summons, and ought to satisfy itself that the summons has been effectually served as directed by the Act.

4. The duty of the local Courts is, not, withstanding repeated admonitions, so often imperfectly performed in this matter, that it appears to the High Court necessary to remind them that no Court can rightly proceed to hear a suit or an appeal *ex parte* until it has been proved to the *satisfaction* of that Court that the summons to a defendant to appear, or notice to a respondent of the hearing of an appeal, as the case may be, has been duly served, *i. e.*, has been served strictly in such manner as the law provides.

5. The service should be personal in all cases in which personal service is practicable, and the Court ought not in *ex parte* cases to act upon anything short of personal service, until it is satisfied that personal service could not reasonably be effected.

6. The nature of the proof of service which the Court ought to require in each case, according as it falls under one or another of the various Sections of the Civil Procedure Code relating to service of summons on defendants, may be shortly stated as follows:—

(1.)—When the summons or notice is served on the defendant or respondent personally, the service and signature of the defendant on the back of the summons or copy should be proved by the affidavit or solemn declaration recorded in writing of the person who actually effected the service; and the identity of the person served with the party to whom the process is addressed should be proved by the affidavit or solemn declaration of some one

personally acquainted with the party to be served.

(2.)—If the service be made under Section 49 of Act VIII. of 1859 on an agent, it should be proved that this person was empowered to accept service, either by reason of his being one of the class of recognized agents described in Section 17 of Act VIII. of 1859, or by virtue of appointment for that purpose in writing.

Note.—The party causing the service to be effected must give proof to this effect. It is a matter of which, ordinarily speaking, the serving officers would have no knowledge.

(3.)—If the service be made under Section 53, it should be proved by the affidavit or solemn declaration of the officer effecting the service, and, if necessary, of some other person or persons acquainted with the facts, that the defendant, or respondent, could not be found, and had no agent empowered to accept the service, and that the person to whom the process was delivered was an *adult* male member of his family, and was actually residing with him at the time of such service.

(4.)—If the service be made under Section 55, it should, in like manner, be proved that the defendant, or respondent, could not be found, and that there was no agent empowered to accept the service, nor any other person on whom the service could be made, and that the defendant, or respondent, was *actually dwelling* (*a*) in the house, on the outer door of which a copy of the process was fixed, at the time when it was so fixed.

(*a*) The facts leading to this inference should be stated.

(5.)—If the service be made under Section 57, it should, in like manner, be proved that the house, upon the door of which a copy of the process was fixed, was the house in which the defendant, or respondent, last resided (*b*), and that the service was made in all respects in conformity with the order for substituted service, which should accompany the process.

(*b*) It should be stated how long and until when he resided in the house, and what has become of him.

(6.)—If the service be made under Section 61, it should be proved, in like manner, that the summons or notice could not be served on the defendant, or respondent, in person, and that he had no agent empowered to accept service, and that the person to whom the process was delivered was an agent of the defendant, or respondent, in charge of the land or other immoveable property forming the subject-matter of the suit.

(7.)—If the service be made under Section 63, it may be proved that the summons or notice was left at the *registered* Office of the Company, or was delivered to any Director, Secretary, or other principal officer.

(8.)—If the summons or notice, when tendered, be declined by the defendant, or his agent, or a male member of his family, besides the proof required as to identity, &c., as stated above, it should be proved that the party was informed that the document tendered was a summons or notice, and that he was made acquainted with the nature and contents thereof.

(9.)—The Court should in all cases obtain the proof which is above described as requisite according to the case, either by the affidavit or verified statement of the person by whom the service was effected, and of any person who may have accompanied the serving officer for the purpose of identifying the party to whom the process was addressed or otherwise directing or assisting the serving officer: or, if deemed necessary, by the examination of the Court as witnesses of such persons as the Court may think fit to examine.

(10.)—When the summons which has been served is the summons of another Court transmitted to the serving Court for the purpose of service only, then, upon service being effected, this latter Court should re-transmit the summons to the Court by which it was issued, together with the Nazir's return and the affidavits, verified statements or depositions of the serving officer, and the witnesses relative to the facts of the service.

7. The foregoing directions apply to, and must be followed in the cases of, all notices and judicial processes which, by Section 15 of Act VIII. of 1859, are required to be served in the manner directed for the service of summons upon a defendant to appear and answer.

Certificate by Judge of due service of Summons, under Section 59.

"I do hereby certify that I did, on the
" day of 18 , cause
"a copy of the within summons (or notice)
"to be served upon the above-named re-
"spondent," or
" that the above summons (or
"notice) was not, in my opinion, duly serv-
"ed upon the above-named defendant, or
"respondent, for the following reasons:—

ZILLAH,)

The *of* *18* .) *Judge.*

h

Directions for Serving Officers, and forms of Returns to be made by Nazirs.

I. Nazirs, in serving summonses and other process under Act VIII. of 1859, must carefully attend to the directions of the Act as to the service of process. Their attention is particularly called to the fact that, wherever it is practicable, the service of process placed in their hands should be personal.

II. They will be held responsible for the due and regular service of all process entrusted to them for service by themselves and their subordinates, and in each case for the correctness of the statements made in the return.

No peon should be retained for the service of process who cannot read and write, or who is not capable of fully and intelligently carrying out these rules in so far as they relate to actual service.

III. Forms of returns to be made by Nazirs are annexed, which should be followed as nearly as the circumstances of the case admit.

IV. In all cases, if the summons or other process is served personally, and the person served signs any acknowledgment of the service, the return shall state that fact, and refer to the signature of the party signing, thus: "That the said did, at the time of such service, in the presence of and ,sign the acknowledgment of the service endorsed on the summons (or other process) hereto annexed."

V. If the summons or other process was tendered and declined, it will be necessary to show that the contents of the same were brought to the knowledge of the party served.

The return must state "that the summons (or other process) was tendered and returned, and that the defendant "or respondent refused to receive the same, "whereupon informed him "what the document was, and acquainted "him with the nature and contents thereof."

FORM No. 1.

Return of Service of Summons or Notice on Defendant in person, under Section 49 of Act VIII. of 1859.

I do hereby certify that I did, on the day of ,deliver (or tender (*a*), or cause to be delivered or tendered) a copy of the summons hereto annexed, under signature of and the seal of the Court [with (if the document is in English, and the party to be served be a native) a translation thereof in the language and character], to the defendant (or respondent) (name and describe him by his residence and occupation and caste, and father's name if known: state facts as to signature, &c.).

(*a*.) This word to be used if the summons has been declined.

FORM No. 2.

Return of Service of Summons or Notice on Agent under Section 49.

I do hereby certify that I did, on the day of deliver (or tender (*a*), or cause to be delivered or tendered) a copy of the summons (or notice) hereto annexed, under the signature of the and seal of the Court [with (if the document is in English, and the party to be served be a native) a translation thereof in the language and character], to (name and describe him) in person, who is (*b*) an agent of the defendant (or respondent) empowered to accept service of the same [or if a recognized agent, state how he is so]. (State facts as to signature.)

(*a*.) Ante.

(*b*.) If necessary, "as I am informed and believe."

FORM No. 3.

Return of Service of Summons or Notice on a male member of the family under Section 53.

I do hereby certify that, as the defendant (or respondent) cannot be found, and has, as far as I am aware, no agent to accept service of summons (or notice), I did, on the day of , deliver (or tender (*a*), or cause to be delivered or tendered) a copy of the summons (or notice) hereto annexed, under the signature of the and seal of the Court [with (if the document is in English, and the party to be served be a native) a translation thereof in the language and character], to the (state if relation or servant, and his apparent age) of the said defendant residing with him.

(*a*.) Ante.

FORM No. 4.

Return of Service of Summons or Notice, under Section 55.

I do hereby certify that, as the defendant (or respondent) cannot be found, and there is, as far as I am aware, no agent empowered to accept service of summons, nor any other person on whom the service can be made, I have fixed (or caused to be fixed) a copy of the summons (or notice) hereto annexed, under the signature of the and seal of the Court [with (if the document is in English, and the party to be served be a native) a translation thereof in the language and character], on the outer door of the house in which the defendant (or respondent) is now residing.
(State whether this is of server's own knowledge or from information and belief.)

FORM No. 5.

Return of Service of Summons or Notice under Section 57.

I do hereby certify that I have, under an order of the Court of the made under Section 57 of Act VIII of 1859, served (or caused to be served) the summons (or notice) hereto annexed by fixing up a copy thereof, under the signature of the and seal of the Court [with (if the document is in English, and the party to be served be a native) a translation thereof in the language and character], upon a conspicuous place in the Court House of the , and also upon the door of a certain house (describe it) in which, as I was informed and believe, the defendant (or respondent) last resided.

FORM No. 6.

Return of Service of Summons or Notice under Section 61.

I do hereby certify that, as the defendant (or respondent) cannot be found, and has, as far as I am aware, no agent empowered to accept service of summons, I did, on the day of ,deliver (or tender (*a*), or cause to be delivered or tendered) a copy of the summons hereto annexed, under the signature of the and seal of the Court [with (if the document is in English, and the party to be served be a native) a translation thereof in the language and character], to (name and description), who is (or as I am informed and believe, is) an agent of the defendant in charge of (state what land or immoveable property), which is the subject-matter of the suit.

(*a*.) Ante.

FORM No. 7.

Return of Service of Summons or Notice under Section 63.

I do hereby certify that I did, on the day of ,leave a copy of the summons (or notice), under the signature of the and seal of the Court, at the registered office of the Company at No. Street [or did deliver (or tender) a copy to Mr. (state what his position is), an officer of the Company].

b

requests Courts to satisfy themselves as to the cancellation of adhesive stamps filed between 1st April last and the receipt of Circular, dated 17th January 1871.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 10.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to the Civil Authorities, Lower Provinces, dated Calcutta, the 13th April 1871.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges*.

THE attention of all Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court is drawn to the necessity for satisfying themselves that cancellation of the adhesive stamp, in the mode prescribed by law, has been duly effected in the case of documents filed in Court between the 1st April last, when the Court Fees Act came into force, and the time of the receipt of Circular Order No. 3, dated 17th January 1871,* which called attention to the provisions of Section 30 thereof.

* *Ante*, p. 2.

Directs the punctual submission to the Accountant-General of Moonsiffs' Treasury Accounts.

CIRCULAR ORDER No. 11.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Civil and Sessions Judges and Judicial Commissioners, dated Calcutta, the 13th April 1871.

(Civil and Criminal.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, A. G. Macpherson, and E. Jackson, *Judges*.

THE Accountant-General having complained that great delay occurs in the submission to his office of deposit registers and other returns of Civil Courts, the High Court, at the request of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, directs the Civil and Sessions Judges and Judicial Commissioners under its control to require all Moonsiffs in their districts to submit their Treasury Accounts for each month punctually on the 27th of such month.

2. These returns should include the transactions of the 27th.

Cancels C. O. No. 20, dated 1st August 1870, requiring information for the promotion of Serishtadars from "B" to "A" Districts.

CIRCULAR No. 12.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Civil and Sessions Judges, dated Calcutta, the 19th April 1871.

(Civil and Criminal.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and A. G. Macphiherson, *Judges*.

In consequence of the altered state of the law, introduced by the Bengal Civil Courts Act (VI.), 1871, the instructions conveyed in Circular Order No. 20, dated 1st August 1870,* can no longer be acted upon, and the Circular in question is hereby cancelled.

* 14 W. R., Civil Circulars, p. 8.

Appoints officers named to be Commissioners for verifying petitions, &c., to be used in the High Court, and circulates General Rules for guidance on the subject.

CIVIL CIRCULAR No. 15.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Judges, Subordinate Judges, and Moonsiffs in the Regulation Provinces, and Judicial Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Non-Regulation Provinces, exercising any of the powers of Judges of Civil Courts.

(Civil Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, F. B. Kemp, L. S. Jackson, J. B. Phear, A. G. Macpherson, E. Jackson, F. A. Glover, D. N. Mitter, W. Ainslie, G. C. Paul, and O. C. Mookerjee, *Judges*.

THE High Court has resolved to appoint you to be Commissioners for verifying petitions, and swearing or affirming affidavits presented to you to be used in the High Court. A commission for that purpose will accordingly be forwarded with this Circular for each of the officers addressed.

In addition to the annexed General Rules for the guidance of all Commissioners appointed by this Court to verify petitions or to swear or affirm affidavits intended for its use, the following special rules are prescribed for your guidance, *viz.*:—

Applications by parties to a suit may be verified in the manner prescribed for plaints.

Affidavits by persons not parties to a suit, when the deponent is a Hindoo or Mahomedan, shall (and in all other cases may) be affirmed in the following form:—

"I solemnly declare in the presence of Almighty God that the signature to this paper is in my name and handwriting, and that what I have therein stated is true."

If the deponent is unable to write, he must say, "I have affixed my mark by way of signature to this paper."

By order of the High Court,

W. M. SOUTTAR,

Officiating Registrar.

The 19th May 1871.

RULES

FOR THE

Admission of applications made to the High Court on its Appellate side.

I. No application made to the High Court founded on any statement of fact shall be made otherwise than by a petition in writing, setting out the material facts, matters, and circumstances on which the applicant relies.

II. The facts stated in such petition shall be verified by the solemn affirmation of the petitioner, or by an affidavit to be annexed to the petition.

NOTE.—The affidavit may be by any person having cognizance of the facts stated. Several persons may join in an affidavit, each deposing separately to those facts which are within his own knowledge.

III. Any party opposing the grant of an application, or showing cause against a rule, who may desire to bring before the Court any facts not contained in, or admitted by, the petition or affidavit of the opposite party, must do so by an affidavit containing, in the form of a narrative, the material facts on which he relies.

IV. Every affidavit to be used in the High Court shall be entitled "In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal."

If there be a cause in Court, the affidavit in support of, or in opposition to, an application respecting it, or made in it, must also be entitled in the cause.

If there be no cause in Court, the affidavit shall be entitled "In the matter of the petition of_____."

V. Every such petition or affidavit as aforesaid, containing any statement of facts, shall be divided into paragraphs, and every paragraph shall be numbered consecutively, and, as nearly as may be, shall be confined to a distinct portion of the subject.

VI. Every person, other than a plaintiff or defendant in a suit in which the application is made, presenting any petition or making any affidavit, shall be described in such a manner as will serve to identify him clearly, that is to say, by the statement of his full name, the name of his father, his caste, or religious persuasion (if he be not a Hindoo), his rank or degree in life, his profession or trade, and the true place of his residence.

VII. When the petitioner in any such petition, or the deponent in any affidavit, speaks to any fact within his own knowledge, he must do so directly and positively, using the words "I affirm" (or "make oath") "and *say*."

VIII. Where the particular fact is not within the deponent's own knowledge, but is stated from information obtained from others, the petitioner or deponent must use the expression, "I am informed," and, if such be the case, he should add "and verily believe it to be true," or he may state the source from which he received such information. When the application rests on facts disclosed in documents or copies of documents procured from any Court of Justice or other source, the deponent shall state what is the source from which they were procured, and his information or belief as to the truth of the facts disclosed in such documents.

IX. Every person presenting a petition or making an affidavit shall, if not personally known to the person before whom the petition is to be verified or the affidavit is to be made, be identified to that person by some one known to him; and the person before whom the petition is verified or the affidavit is made shall specify at the foot of the petition or of the affidavit (as the case may be) the name and description of him by whom the identification is made, as well as the time and place of the identification and of the verification of the petition or making of the affidavit.

X. If any person presenting a petition or making an affidavit shall appear to the person before whom the petition is to be verified or the affidavit made to be illiterate or not fully to understand the contents of the petition or affidavit, the said person before whom the petition is to be verified or the affidavit made shall cause the petition or affidavit (as the case may be) to be read and explained, either by himself or in his presence, by a proper Officer of the Court, to the person by whom it is to be verified or made. When any petition or affidavit is read and explained as herein provided, the person before whom the petition is verified or affidavit is made shall certify in writing, at the foot of such petition or affidavit, that it has been so read or explained, and that the person verifying the petition or making the affidavit seemed perfectly to understand the same at the time of his verifying it or making it.

Dated the 15th May 1871.

J. P. NORMAN.
G. LOCH.
H. V. BAYLEY.
F. B. KEMP.
L. S. JACKSON.
J. B. PHEAR.
A. G. MACPHERSON.
E. JACKSON.
F. A. GLOVER.
D. N. MITTER.
W. AINSLIE.
G. C. PAUL.
O. C. MOOKERJEE.

(FORM OF COMMISSION.)

In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal.

Civil Jurisdiction.

Fort William in Bengal. { Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To

GREETING.

WE, confiding in the care, fidelity, and circumspection of you the said do by these presents give and grant unto you full power and authority to swear or solemnly affirm, as the case may be, all and every person or persons who shall come before you in your Court, to all and every affidavit or affidavits relating to all and every application or applications for use in our High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, which may be presented in your Court pursuant to Circular Order No. 15 of the 19th May 1871.

Witness

Chief Justice

at Fort William aforesaid,

Given under the seal of our said High Court, this day of in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy—.

Registrar.

Directs the discontinuance by Magistrates of the General Register of Warrants.

CRIMINAL CIRCULAR No. 1.

From the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Criminal Authorities, dated Calcutta, the 11th January 1871.

(Criminal Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

THE Court directs the discontinuance, in the Office of the Magistrate of the District, of the General Register of Warrants prescribed by the late Sudder Court's Circular of the 15th May 1835, No. 167, and the High Court's Circular, dated 1st October 1866, No. 11.*

2. Each Criminal Court is enjoined to keep up its own Register, and see that its own warrants are duly returned. The form in which the Register shall be maintained is that laid down in Circular Order No. 167, dated 15th May 1835, omitting Column 6 as required by Circular Order No. 11, dated 1st October 1866;* and the manner in which entries are to be made will be found described in the Rules appended to that form.

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

Directs that in future warrants for the realization of fines be issued only by the Sessions Judges —but in duplicate, one to the Magistrate and the other to the officer in charge of the Jail.

CRIMINAL CIRCULAR No. 2.

From the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Sessions Judges, Lower and Extra Regulation Provinces, dated Calcutta, the 18th January 1871.

(Criminal Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

IT having been brought to the notice of the High Court that warrants for the reali-

* 6 W. R., Criminal Circulars, p. 9.

zation of fines imposed by Courts of Session are sometimes issued from the Magistrate's Office, the attention of all Sessions Judges is called to Section 61 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act VIII. of 1869), which provides for such warrants being issued by the Sessions Judge alone—Section 384 of the Code of Criminal Procedure having been modified.

2. As, however, the present system of issuing one warrant for the carrying into effect a two-fold sentence, * one portion of which has to be given effect to by one officer and the other portion by another, has been found to be inconvenient and to lead to difficulties, Sessions Judges are directed in future, in all such cases, to cause to be issued a warrant in duplicate fully filled up, one copy being forwarded to each of the two officers, *viz.*, the Magistrate and the officer in charge of the Jail, whose duty it is to see the warrant carried into effect. That portion, however, of the sentence with which the officer to whom the particular copy is addressed has no concern will first be written in, and then scored through with red ink, as an intimation to him that no action on his part is necessary in regard to such portion. If at any time before the expiration of the alternative sentence the whole fine shall be levied, the Magistrate shall report the fact to the officer in charge of the Jail, and direct the discharge of the prisoner; or if a portion of the fine shall be levied within such time as aforesaid, the Magistrate forthwith shall report the fact for the orders of the Sessions Judge.

* *Vide* Forms 6, 7, and 8, also 10 and 11, appended to Circular Order No. 6, dated 23rd February 1870.†

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

† 13 W. R., Criminal Circulars, p. 7.

Instructions for the preparation of the tabular forms prescribed by Circular No. 32, dated 8th November 1870.

CRIMINAL CIRCULAR No. 3.

From the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Criminal Authorities, dated Calcutta, the 2nd February 1871.

(Criminal Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

It having been brought to the notice of the Court that difficulty has been experienced in the preparation of the tabular forms prescribed by Circular Order No. 32, dated 8th November last,* so far as regards the Criminal Returns, the following instructions are issued for the information and guidance of Sessions Judges and Magistrates:—

2.—The classification list alluded to in Column 2 of this Statement, of which a copy accompanied the Circular Order in question, is merely that given by the Statistical Committee, and was clearly not intended to be an exhaustive, but rather a suggestive, list of offences. It is nowhere recognized or prescribed in the Circular itself, and was not meant entirely to supersede the existing Schedule provided by Circular Order No. 19, dated

Judicial Statement (Criminal) 2.

* 14 W. R., Civil Circulars, p. 25.

st December 1861. The Court have, wever, determined to re-construct that hedule on the principle of the classifica- n list, and to adapt it to its requirements, r a re-arrangement of its descriptive head- gs, according to the order of the Sections the Indian Penal Code. This has been one in the new Schedule circulated here- ith.

3.—As regards 'attempts,' the Court are f opinion that, when the attempt is one or the punishment of which express provi- ion is made (such as attempt to commit murder, culpable homicide, or suicide), where- y, in fact, such attempts are constituted ubstantive offences, they should come in heir order accordingly; but that attempts unishable under the general provisions of ection 511, Indian Penal Code, should be nserted where they occur, immediately after he offences at which they are attempted. Finally, offences under special and local laws hould be exhibited, arranged alphabetically, as indicated in the accompanying list, after he offences classified as above mentioned.

Judicial Statement (Criminal) 3.

4.—With reference to Column 15 of this Statement, headed "average number of days during which each case lasted," the Court consider that the average duration should be calculated from date of complaint or information to date of conviction, acquittal, or discharge; and where there are several persons accused in the same case in respect of whom final orders are not passed at the same time, as will sometimes happen, then to the date of last order.

Judicial Statement (Criminal) 4.

5.—This Statement was intended to exhibit *every sentence* passed, and where two penalties were inflicted on the same offender to exhibit them both. With a view, however, to secure uniformity in the mode in which the columns are to be filled up, and to provide against the same offenders being reckoned more than once in the general result, the Court lay down the following instructions: If a man has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment with solitary confinement and fine, he will appear in Columns 5 and 9; if to rigorous imprisonment without solitary confinement, but with fine, then in Columns 6 and 9; if to simple imprisonment and fine, then in Columns 7 and 9; if to rigorous imprisonment and whipping, then in Columns 5 or 6 and 11. In adding the entries together to ascertain the total number of *persons punished*, it will be necessary to exclude Columns 9 and 11, as the persons referred to therein will be accounted for in other columns.

Judicial Statement (Criminal) 5.

6.—This is a return to be made by the Appellate Courts of the district, and is intended to exhibit *their* action, *i. e.*, the orders made *by them*, and one of the orders which a Sessions Judge or a Magistrate of a District can make (rather, however, as a Superintending Court than as an Appellate Court) is that of reference to the High Court. Orders of this nature accordingly will be shown in Column 9, the previous columns showing either final orders made or orders interlocutory or preparatory to *their own* final orders. Column 7 will thus show orders quashing or annulling convictions where the local Appellate Court has power to make such order, *e. g.*, Section 427, Criminal Procedure Code (Act VIII. of 1869), and Column 8 will include orders made by such Courts under Section 422.

By order of the High Court,
(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,
Registrar.

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Directions to Sessions Judges in the preparation of their Criminal Administration Reports.

CRIMINAL CIRCULAR No. 4.

From the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Sessions Judges, Regulation and Extra Regulation Provinces, dated Calcutta, the 2nd February 1871.

(Criminal Side.)

Present:

The Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

THE following directions are issued for the guidance of Sessions Judges in the preparation of their Criminal Administration Reports, with reference to the new forms prescribed in Circular Order No. 32, dated 8th November 1870* and in supersession of previous orders on the subject.

The report is to contain, *inter alia*, the following matters:—

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Statement of number of offences ascertained to have been committed in year under report as compared with previous year.

OFFENCES.	1869.	1870.
Against the State or public (Cap. VI. to XV., I. P. Code) ...		
Against the person (Cap. XVI., XIX., XX. to XXII.) ...		
Against property (Cap. XVII. and XVIII.) ...		
Under special laws ...		
TOTAL ...		

Statement showing the number of persons brought to trial during the year, as well as those convicted, acquitted, or discharged, and remaining under trial.

OFFENCES.	PERSONS				
	Under trial.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Died, escaped, transferred.	Remaining under trial.
Against the State or public (Cap. VI. to XV., I. P. Code) ...					
Against the person (Cap. XVI., XIX., XX. to XXII.)					
Against property (Cap. XVII. and XVIII.) ..					
Under special laws... ...					
TOTAL ...					

* 14 W. R., Civil Circulars, p. 25.

Statement showing the number of witnesses, and their attendance.

Courts in Detail.	Number of witnesses discharged.			
	On 1st Day.	On 2nd Day.	On 3rd Day.	After 3rd Day.
Magistrate of the District				
Joint Magistrate				
Assistant Magistrate				
Deputy Magistrate				
Total ...				

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

Table showing Appeals from sentences and orders of Courts of Original Jurisdiction, preferred in the District, disposed of and pending in the year under report, as compared with the previous year.

From Sentence or Order of	Preferred.		Disposed of				Remaining for Trial.	
	1869.	1870.	1869.		1870.		1869.	1870.
			Before Court of Session.	Before Magistrate of the District.	Before Court of Session.	Before Magistrate of the District.		
Magistrate of the District								
Joint Magistrate								
Assistant Magistrate								
Deputy Magistrate								
Total ...								

Table showing the number of Appeals preferred to the Court of Session, or to the Magistrate of the District, from the Subordinate Criminal Courts, the ratio of appeals to decisions, the number of decisions affirmed, and the ratio of affirmed to decided.

Appeals from sentence or order of	Number of Appeals preferred.	Ratio of Appeals to sentences or orders.	Number of sentences or orders affirmed.	Ratio of affirmed to passed.
District Magistrate ...				
&c., &c.,				

Separate reports, similar in character to that submitted with the Civil Administration Report, should be submitted in respect of all officers employed in the administration of criminal justice. In respect of every such officer, figures should be shown exhibiting the amount of work done, the extent to which he has been employed in other duties, the result of appeals from his decisions, and also the result of commitments made by him, in so far as such result indicates any want of discretion on his part or the converse. To such results should be appended the opinion of the District Magistrate in respect of the officer, which should be followed in each case by that of the Sessions Judge.

In prescribing these materials for the Administration Report, the Court has expressly refrained from directing the use of any particular form of covering letter, considering that such a matter is best left to the judgment of the several authorities concerned.

By order of the High Court,

(Signed) F. B. PEACOCK,

Registrar.

SCHEDULE of Offences under Act XLV. of 1860.

No.	Description of Offences.	Sections of Penal Code applicable.
1	Offences against the State	Sections 121 to 130.
2	,, relating to the Army and Navy	,, 131 to 140.
3	Offences against public tranquillity ... — Unlawful assembly	,, 143 to 145, 149 to 151, 157, 158.
4	Offences against public tranquillity ... — Rioting, &c.	,, 147, 148, 152, and 153 to 156.
5	Offences against public tranquillity ... — Affray	,, 160.
6	Offences ... ... — By public servants	,, 161 to 169.
7	Offences ... ... — Relating to public servants	,, 168, 170, and 171.
8	Contempt of lawful authority	,, 172 to 190.
9	False evidence, or subornation, &c., of the same	,, 193 to 200.
10	Offences against public justice...	,, 201 to 229.
11	,, relating to coin	,, 231 to 254.
12	,, ,, to stamps	,, 255 to 263.
13	,, ,, to weights and measures	,, 264 to 267.
14	,, affecting public health	,, 269 to 278.
15	,, ,, safety	,, 279 to 289.
16	,, ,, convenience	,, 290 and 291.
17	,, ,, decency or morals	,, 292 to 294.
18	,, ,, relating to religion	,, 295 to 298.
19	Murder	,, 302 and 303.
20	Culpable homicide	,, 304.
21	Abetment at suicide...	,, 305 and 306.
22	Thuggee, &c.	,, 311.
23	Causing miscarriage — Attended with aggravating circumstances ...	,, 312 to 315.
24	Causing miscarriage — Other cases	,, 312.
25	Injury to unborn children	,, 316.
26	Exposure of infants	,, 317.
27	Concealment of births by secret disposal of the dead body	,, 318.
28	Hurt ... ... — With aggravating circumstances	,, 325 to 331, and 333.
29	Hurt ... ... — Other cases	,, 323, 324, 332, and 334 to 338.
30	Wrongful restraint	,, 341.
31	,, confinement	,, 342 to 348.
32	Criminal force or assault	,, 352 to 358.

SCHEDULE of Offences under Act XLV. of 1860—continued.

No.	Description of Offences.	Sections of Penal Code applicable.
33	Kidnapping or forcible abduction ... ... — With aggravating circumstances ...	Section 364, 366, 367.
34	Kidnapping or forcible abduction ... ... — Other cases	" 363, 365, 368, 369.
35	Slavery	" 370 and 371.
36	Buying or selling a minor for the purpose of prostitution	" 372 and 373.
37	Forced labor	" 374.
38	Rape	" 376.
39	Unnatural offences	" 377.
40	Theft ... ... — With aggravating circumstances ...	" 382.
41	Theft ... ... — Other cases	" 379 to 381, and 401.
42	Extortion ... ... — With aggravating circumstances ...	" 386 to 389.
43	Extortion ... ... — Other cases	" 384 and 385.
44	Robbery ... ... — With hurt	" 394.
45	Robbery ... ... — Other cases	" 392.
46	Dacoity ... ... — With murder	" 396.
47	Dacoity ... ... — With attempt to cause death or grievous hurt	" 397.
48	Dacoity ... ... — Other cases	" 395, 399, 400, and 402.
49	Criminal misappropriation of property	" 403 and 404
50	" breach of trust...	" 406 to 409.
51	Receiving or habitually dealing in stolen or plundered property ...	" 411 to 414.
52	Cheating	" 417 to 420.
53	Fraudulent deeds and disposition of property	" 421 to 424.
54	Mischief ... ... — With aggravating circumstances ...	" 429 to 433, and 435 to 440.
55	Mischief ... ... — Other cases	" 426 to 428, and 434.
56	Criminal Trespass ... — Resulting in death or other grievous hurt ...	" 459 and 460.
57	Criminal Trespass ... — For commission of serious offences ...	" 449, 450, 451, 452, 454, 455, 457, and 458.
58	Criminal Trespass ... — Other cases	" 447, 448, 453, 556, 461, and 462.
59	Forgery or uttering or possessing forged documents or papers ...	" 465 to 471, and 474.
60	Counterfeiting or making or possessing a counterfeit seal, &c., for purposes of forgery	" 472 to 476.
61	Fraudulently destroying or defacing a Will or other documents ...	" 477.
62	Using a false trade or property-mark, and knowingly selling property so marked	" 482, 486, 487, and 488.
63	Counterfeiting or making or possessing a die, plate, or instrument for counterfeiting a trade or property-mark	" 483 to 485.
64	Removing, destroying, &c., a trade or property-mark with intent to cause injury	" 489.
65	Criminal breach of contract of service	" 490 to 492.
66	Offences relating to marriage	" 493 to 498.
67	Defamation	" 500 to 502.
68	Criminal intimidation, insult, or annoyance — Resulting in death or other grievous hurt.	" 506.
69	Criminal intimidation, insult, or annoyance — Other cases	" 504 to 510.
70	Attempts	" 511.
71	Other offences not included in the above specifications, such as—	
	1. Abkaree Laws, breach of—	
	2. Aliens, breach of Laws relating to—	
	3. Chowkeedaree cases under Act XX. of 1856 and Act V. of 1861.	
	4. Custom's Laws, breach of—	
	5. Ferry Laws, breach of—	
	6. Lotteries, breach of Law relating to—	
	7. Post Office Laws, breach of—	
	8. Printing Presses, breach of Laws relating to—	
	9. Railway Laws, breach of—	
	10. Salt Laws, breach of—	

kes an alteration in the Schedule of offences ppended to Circular No. 3, dated 2nd ebruary last.

CRIMINAL CIRCULAR No. 5

rom the Officiating Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, to all Criminal Authorities, dated Calcutta, the 19th April 1871.

(Criminal Side.)

Present:

e Hon'ble J. P. Norman, *Officiating Chief Justice*, and the Hon'ble G. Loch, H. V. Bayley, L. S. Jackson, and E. Jackson, *Judges.*

IN continuation of Circular Order No. 3, ed 2nd February last,* the Court directs t the new Schedule of offences appended thereto may be altered by the elision of heading No. 70 relating to "attempts" under Section 511, Indian Penal Code, which will necessitate the conversion of the heading next ensuing ("No. 71") into No. 70.

2. In the case of those Sessions Judges whose annual returns shall have been despatched before the receipt of these instructions, and the nature of "attempts" has not been otherwise separately indicated in them, a supplementary return will be necessary, indicative of the number and nature of each class of "attempts" which may have been entered under the heading No. 70 now rescinded.

By order of the High Court,

(Sd.) W. M. SOUTTAR,

Officiating Registrar.

* *Ante*, p. 7.

IN THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The 1st December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Joint property—Self-acquired property—Documentary evidence—Admissions—Finding of fact.

On Appeal from the High Court at Madras.

Chellayamal

versus

Muttialamal and another.

Concurrent finding of the Lower Courts, based upon admissions made in written documents that property which had been originally self-acquired had come into a common stock, and become joint property, upheld.

THIS is a mere question of evidence. The appeal is simply on the ground that the Court below has not come to a right conclusion upon matters of fact and matters of inference from written documents. Both Courts, the Court of first instance and the Court of appeal in India, arrive at the conclusion that certain property which is assumed by the Court of appeal, at all events, to have been originally acquired property of Paupa Reddy, had been thrown by him, although his separate acquisition, into a common stock. If, although originally a separate acquisition, thrown by him into a common stock, beyond all question the appellant was wrong and the respondents were right in the litigation.

Upon that question of fact the Court below has considered that two documents were themselves sufficient evidence of the fact. The one was a document which is called Exhibit 1, and it is as follows: "The humble "petition of Babu Reddy" (the same man who is called Paupa Reddy), "zemindar of the "Gari Mitta of Muttakapatti, etc., in the "Taluk of Namakal. The muttas registered "in my name" (which are the muttas in question), "and those registered in the names "of myself and my elder brother's son, "Polam Reddy, zemindar of Sali Mutta, and "all the property enjoyed by us, as also the "Choultry and the charities, belong after my "death to the said Polam Reddy, and to "none else." The Court below was of opinion that that writing was a writing evidencing a very deliberate admission and recognition by Paupa Reddy of the then existing condition of the property—that it is part of a joint property of himself and Polam Reddy.

They referred to another Exhibit, No. 30, which is to the same effect, and then they say: "Then, in Exhibit 4, an income-tax "return made in 1861, we find Paupa "Reddy lumping these four muttas together "with the other lands which were undoubt-"edly the joint property of himself and "Polam Reddy, and treating them all alike "as joint property. By itself this admis-"sion might not have been of very great "value; but, following, as it does, the so-"lemn recognition of the muttas as joint "property made in 1860, it is, we think, "very important evidence in favor of the "defendants."

Their Lordships think it is utterly impossible for them to come to the conclusion that the Court below was wrong in treating these documents as very important evidence, and in drawing the conclusion that the proper inference from them was that it was a recognition of the fact that the separate property had become joint property.

Their Lordships see no ground whatever for disturbing the finding of the Court below; and they will, therefore, humbly recommend Her Majesty to dismiss this appeal with costs.

The 2nd December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Lunacy—Res judicata—Act XXXV. of 1858—Practice—Evidence.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Ajoodhya Pershad and another

versus

Omrao Singh.

* From the judgment of Steer and L. S. Jackson, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 581 of 1862, dated 10th December 1863—not reported.

Act XXXV. of 1858 contemplates only the question of lunacy or sanity at the time of the inquiry; there is no provision in the Act that the inquiry shall extend to the ascertainment of the period at which the alleged lunatic first became of unsound mind. The report of an officer on such inquiry has not the effect of *res judicata* upon the issue between two parties who allege that the lunacy commenced at different times.

When evidence of doubtful admissibility has been received in a cause in India, the Privy Council will deal with the case as they think substantial justice requires, and will not allow any merely technical objections to prevail.

In this case an action in the nature of an ejectment was brought by the respondent, Omrao Singh, as the Committee, and in right of his wife (a lunatic), for the recovery of certain parcels of land which were admitted to be in the possession of the appellants. The plaint also asked that a certain ikrarnamah should be set aside. Their Lordships may at once dispose of the latter question by saying that it appears to them, as it appeared to the High Court of Bengal, to be one which cannot be disposed of in this suit; that it is a question which can only be determined between the appellants and the persons who are named as their co-defendants on the record. Their Lordships, therefore, will deal with the case as being nothing but an action in the nature of an ejectment for the recovery of the lands in question from the appellants.

The title upon which the plaintiff sued is based upon the fact that his wife, as the daughter of Indrabuttee, the last surviving widow of one Teijnarain, became, on the death of the mother, entitled to the property as the next heir of her father Teijnarain; and the principal issue raised in the cause is whether that lady had not lost her right to inherit by reason of her lunacy. It seems to be admitted on both sides (the point has not been argued here, nor was it argued in the Court below) that by the Hindoo Law, if she was, when the succession opened to her, that is to say on the death of her mother, insane, she did lose her right, and that it passed to the three persons who are mentioned in the record to be her sons.

The sole question, therefore, for their Lordships' determination is a question of fact, whether the lady was or was not insane at the time of her mother's death, or whether, as alleged by the plaintiff, she became insane within two months after that event. This issue of fact was found in favor of the appellants by the Court of first instance, the Principal Sudder Ameen. His judgment was reversed by the High Court upon certain grounds, and it has been contended before their Lordships that those grounds are unsatisfactory, inasmuch as the Appellate Court has given undue weight to a certain document which had been admitted in evidence in the cause. Hence, there being two conflicting judgments, and a grave question touching the weight which ought to be given to a particular document, it has fallen to their Lordships to deal with this case according to their own view of the evidence taken in the cause, and to form their own conclusions upon it.

It seems to their Lordships desirable in the first instance to consider whether, by reason of the undue weight which the High Court gave to the document in question, the value of its judgment is destroyed. The document is the report of the Moonsiff made upon the application for the appointment of the husband as Committee. It appears that within two months after the death of Indrabuttee, Omrao Singh applied to the Zillah Judge, under Act XXXV. of 1858 of the Indian Legislature, to be appointed committee of his wife alleging her lunacy. The Act directs that, in case the party lives at a certain distance from the sudder station, the Judge shall delegate the inquiry to a local officer, who in this case was the Moonsiff. The local officer has to report to the Judge who passes the final order in the case. The Act, however, contemplates only the question of lunacy or sanity at the time of the inquiry; there is no provision in the Act that the inquiry shall extend to the ascertainment of the period at which the alleged lunatic first became of unsound mind.

In these circumstances the appellants, who had long been pressing their claims in respect of this property against the other branch of the family, thought it expedient to appear as objectors on this proceeding. It is not clear that the Judge passed any order allowing them to go before the Moonsiff, but in some way or other they appear to have been admitted before the Moonsiff. They did not attend throughout the inquiry, and they failed to produce witnesses to prove that the lady had been a lunatic from the time at which they alleged she became so, or at any time before the death of Indrabuttee. The result, therefore, was that they did not go into their case before the Moonsiff. The Moonsiff, on the other hand, took evidence on the part of the respondent, who was seeking to be appointed Committee, and came to the conclusion that the lady was of unsound mind. His report is at page 89 of the record. It states what I have just said about his having taken the evidence, and then contains this

passage: "In this case both parties acknowledge the lunacy of Mussamut Sreebuttee; but the dispute between them is on this subject. The applicant writes that Mussamut Sreebuttee became insane in the month of Maugh 1267 Fuslee, subsequent to the death of her mother, Mussamut Indrabuttee, and the intervenors state, contrary to this, that she has been a lunatic for a very long time, that is to say, from anterior to the death of Indrabuttee, her mother. From the evidence of the witnesses which have been produced on the part of applicant (from No. 1 to 29), it has become known that Mussamut Sreebuttee, daughter of Mussamut Indrabuttee, deceased, after her death, became insane, in the month of Maugh 1267 Fuslee, at mouzah Dinnaree, Pergunnah Kunhour, in the house of her husband, and that she continues in the same state up to this time. From the evidence as to the lunacy taken by me before the intervenors, it has been ascertained that the Mussamut aforesaid is quite insane. The intervenors have produced no proofs before me from which it may be learned that the Mussamut aforesaid has been insane for a greater length of time." This report having been made to the Judge, the appellants again objected before the Judge, but the Judge very properly held that he had no jurisdiction to decide the question between the parties, that the simple issue was whether Indrabuttee was a person possessed of any property, and if so, whether she was a sane or insane, and required the protection of a Committee; and accordingly he appointed the husband Committee. The learned Judge who delivered the judgment of the High Court seems to have thought that the evidence before him being conflicting, the scale was turned by the document to which I have just referred. He says: "The evidence adduced by them (the appellants) is not only very far from satisfactory, but it is directly opposed to the recorded opinion of the Moonsiff deputed by the Zillah Judge in 1860 to investigate the matter of Sreebuttee's lunacy." It appears to their Lordships that, if he meant to give to this finding, what we do not think he did mean to give, the effect of *res judicata* between the parties, he was clearly wrong. There was no adjudication by any competent tribunal upon the point in issue in this suit. The Moonsiff had no jurisdiction to decide it; nor had the appellants in strictness any *locus standi* before him. If, on the other hand, he meant to say that the conduct of the appellants, as evidenced by that proceeding, had been such as to lead to an inference that the case they afterwards made was untrue, he seems also to their Lordships to have given an effect to their conduct which it does not fairly bear. All that appears is that they went unnecessarily before a tribunal which could not have decided the question between them and the opposite party, and that being there they failed to produce their evidence. Their Lordships are of opinion that it is neither a necessary nor a legitimate inference from that fact, that the evidence which the appellants have produced in this suit ought not to be believed. That being so, their Lordships think that the judgment of the High Court, whether the Judges came to a right conclusion or to a wrong conclusion, has been put upon grounds which do not justify that conclusion.

Their Lordships have then to consider the effect of the whole evidence. The issue is a remarkably simple one; it is whether this lady, admitted on both sides to be a lunatic, became a lunatic between the death of her mother and the period at which the husband applied to be appointed Committee—that is to say, two months afterwards—or whether she had been a lunatic for some considerable period before the death of Indrabuttee. Now, their Lordships will concede that the burden of proof may be on the side of the appellants—that it may be sufficient for the other party, in proving his title, to prove that this lady, now a lunatic, but who certainly had not always been a lunatic, was the nearest heiress to Teijnarain; but it is evidently a burden which becomes of a much lighter character when the lunacy is admitted to have supervened within two months of the critical time, the death of Indrabuttee.

Then again the case of the respondents is open to the observation which has been made at the Bar, that, if it is true, far better evidence of it might have been produced than has been produced by the respondent. For instance, if the woman became mad within two months of her mother's death, one would suppose that that madness must have been caused by some disorder which would require and receive medical treatment. We have, however, no medical evidence whatever. We have nothing to show that, having been sane up to a certain period, she became suddenly ill. Again, we have none of the near relations of the family produced. The mere fact that the husband verifies in the ordinary way the truth of the allegation in the plaint is no answer to the suggestion that, if he had a true case, he, the nearest relation of this

party, might have come forward and shown how the madness came on and all the circumstances relating to it. He, again, has within his power all her family and female domestics; but there is not a single witness produced on that side, except the witnesses of the character so common in the Indian Courts, *viz.*, male menial servants, dependants, and ryots living in the neighbourhood, who are all obviously persons less likely to have the circumstances deposed to within their knowledge, and to be far less trustworthy than the members of the family who might have been produced. On the other hand, it is said that the evidence produced by the appellants is of no better character. It does not seem to their Lordships that this observation is altogether just. There is certainly, at least, one person produced by the appellants who does stand to the parties in near relationship. No doubt, his testimony is open to the observation that, though the uncle of the lunatic, he is also the father-in-law of one of the appellants; but still he is a man of position; he is a man who, from his relationship, must have had the means of knowing what he deposes to, and he seems, upon the whole, to be the most trustworthy witness that has been produced to give direct evidence as to the date of the lunacy on either side. Again, there are the other witnesses mentioned by Sir Roundell Palmer, *viz.*, the two servants, one of whom was employed to take care of her, and they seem to have had more peculiar means of knowledge than those possessed by most of the witnesses on the other side. Then a great deal has been said touching the evidence of the witness upon whom the Principal Sudder Ameen seems, from the expressions in his judgment, to have placed the greatest reliance—I mean the evidence of Mr. Duff. It has been argued that Mr. Duff's evidence, being mere hearsay, was not admissible at all. Their Lordships are not prepared to admit that this evidence is properly described as mere hearsay. The witness speaks of his own knowledge to the fact that at a particular period the insanity of Mussamut Sreebuttee was rumoured and generally believed in the district with which he was conversant. Their Lordships do not feel it necessary to decide whether that testimony, if objected to, would have been receivable on the trial of such an issue as this in an English Court of Justice. It has been received in India; and their Lordships conceive that they ought to deal with it according to the principles enunciated by Dr. Lushington in the case mentioned in the course of the argument (see* 7 Moore's Indian Appeals 137) as those which govern this Board, *viz.*, that when evidence of doubtful admissibility has, under the looser practice of the Indian Courts, been received in a cause, their Lordships, sitting as an Appellate Court, will deal with the case as they think substantial justice requires, and will not allow any merely technical objections to prevail. In the present case, their Lordships think that they ought not wholly to reject Mr. Duff's testimony. The next question is, what effect can legitimately be given to it. If we had to deal here with the broad question of sanity or insanity—whether Mussamut Sreebuttee were now sane or insane—Mr. Duff's evidence would be of little or no value. But when it is an admitted fact that the woman is insane, and the question is whether she first became so before or after the date of the death of Indrabuttee, the testimony of a trustworthy witness, that long before that period she was, to his knowledge, reputed insane, is an important corroboration of the direct testimony given in the cause to the fact of her insanity at that time.

Their Lordships, moreover, deem it right to observe that, if Mr. Duff's deposition was struck out of the record, they would nevertheless be of opinion that the preponderance of the evidence is in favor of the conclusion—that the lady was insane at the time of Indrabuttee's death. And they are confirmed in that opinion when they come to consider the *res gestæ* of the case. This family was originally a joint family, and there was an attempt at a partition as early as 1802. From that time forth, however, the two branches of the family represented by the appellants seem to have contended that the estates were to a certain extent joint, and that the descent of them was to be governed by the rules regulating the descent of joint property. Their Lordships do not say whether they were right or wrong. In the lifetime of the two widows there seems to have been an arrangement by which the widows were left in possession of the property, but it is said on some understanding that on their death it was to go as if it were joint estate to the male heirs. Whatever may be the merits of that contention, it seems to their Lordships impossible to resist the conclusion that the punchayet which is alleged to have been held was held. Possibly the circumstances which led to it may have been circumstances of violence tending to a breach of the peace, but with that we have nothing to do. In point of fact, their Lordships believe that the punchayet was held, that the ikrarnamah was executed in pursuance of that

* 4 W. R., P. C., p. 121.

punchayet, and that the possession of the lands, which is now admitted to be in the appellants, followed upon the execution of that instrument. It is unnecessary to consider whether that document was obtained by duress or fraud, or anything of that kind, for that is a question which can only arise between the sons of this lady, who executed it, and the appellants; but if the transactions above mentioned did take place then, then it follows that at that time, which was immediately after the death of Indrabuttee, the sons, and not the mother, were held out to be and were dealt with as the heirs. If the lady had not then been insane, it seems most improbable that some person would not have put forward her interest, or that the appellants would have dealt with those as heirs who really did not possess that character.

Therefore, weighing all the circumstances, their Lordships have come to the conclusion that the Principal Sudder Ameen was right in the view which he took of the evidence, that Mussamut Sreebuttee was of unsound mind at the time of her mother Indrabuttee's death, and that consequently the plaintiff in the action has failed to make out his title. Their Lordships must, therefore, recommend Her Majesty to reverse the decision of the High Court, and to order that, in lieu thereof, the appeal to that Court against the decree of the Principal Sudder Ameen dismissing the appellant's suit be dismissed with costs. The appellants must also have their costs of this appeal.

The 3rd December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Question of fact—Onus on Appellant.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Govind Soonduree Debea and others

versus

Juggodumba Debea and others.

Upon a mere question of fact which has been decided in the same way by both Courts in India, the appellant must satisfy the Privy Council, beyond all reasonable question, that there was some miscarriage in the Court below in respect of some principle which they acted upon, in respect of some presumption to which too much weight was given, or in respect of something as to which they could see that there was a matter of principle involved which the Privy Council ought to set right for the guidance of the Courts of India in other cases.

THIS is an appeal from the decision of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, affirming a decision of the local Court. The question was a mere question of fact depending upon evidence, and depending upon the inferences to be drawn from the acts and conduct of the parties.

Their Lordships do not feel themselves called upon to go as minutely into the details of the evidence which has been given on the one side or on the other, as if they had been a Court of first instance, or to satisfy themselves that, if they had been such Court of first instance, they would have concurred in the judgment of the Court below, as that which the weight of evidence was in favor of. They consider that, in accordance with the rule which has been more than once laid down at this Board, upon a mere question of fact, a question of fact which has been decided in the same way by both Courts in India, it is the duty of the appellant to satisfy them, beyond all reasonable question, that there was some miscarriage in the Court below, in respect of some principle which they acted upon, in respect of some presumption to which too much weight was given, or in respect of something as to which they could see that there was a matter of principle involved which this Board ought to set right for the guidance of the Courts of India in other cases.

* From the judgment of Loch and Seton-Karr, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 393 of 1864, dated 29th May 1865—See 3 W.R., Civil Rulings, p. 66.

In this case the question was a mere question of fact, and both Courts seem to have gone very minutely into all the questions of evidence. The Court below gave a very long and very elaborate judgment. The Court at Fort William admits, in favor of the appellant, that abundance of oral evidence had been produced to prove the fact of the permission to adopt in question in the cause having been first given verbally and then in writing, but they say: "We "entirely discredit the whole of the evidence "except that of Dr. Elton, knowing how easy "it is, when family disputes arise, to raise "claims, such as is made in the present case, "and to support them with any amount of "oral evidence, even that of the nearest "relatives of the family, who generally range "themselves on one side or the other, and "who cast aside all regard for truth in order "to secure the success of the party whose "cause they have espoused; and our past "experience tells us that such is particularly "the case in suits to uphold or set aside "alleged acts of adoption in Zillah Mymen-"singh," the particular Zillah in question. Now, their Lordships do not feel themselves at liberty to say that this was not a true statement of the practice and of a danger to be guarded against. The Court below goes on to say: "There are, however, rea-"sons beyond this general one, which, in our "opinion, render this testimony utterly "worthless," and then they say: "We "find that Woomesh Chunder died in 1256, "that from that time till 15th Assin 1268, "a period of twelve years, nothing was done "by the plaintiff in furtherance of the per-"mission to adopt which, as she alleges, she "had received from her husband; no pub-"licity was given to this instrument, no care "was taken to register nor to keep it in her "own custody, and the instrument itself is "not to be found; but the plaintiff comes "into Court with a plausible tale, that she "was too young to take care of the paper "when her husband died, and so made it "over to her father-in-law, from whose cus-"tody it passed on his death to that of his "son, and thus on his widow she casts the "*onus* of producing it or the odium of hav-"ing destroyed it. After the death of her "father-in-law she allowed her brothers-in-"law to take possession of the estate, made "no attempt to make the adoption, an act "which would have secured to her as guar-"dian of a minor adopted son a large share "of the family-property, but she proceeded "with her mother-in-law to Benares ap-"parently with the purpose of spending the "remainder of her life there, when the unex-"pected death of her youngest brother-in-law "brought her back to the family-residence, "prepared to contest, with his widow, the "right to the possession of the property, "and supporting her claim by any amount "of hard swearing which unscrupulous par-"ties about her do not hesitate to put for-"ward in her behalf. So long as any male "member of her husband's family remained "alive, she took no steps to carry out her "husband's permission to adopt; but no "sooner has the last male member deceased, "and the possession of the property devolved "on his widow, than the plaintiff suddenly "starts up from her long sleep, and tries to "get possession by an alleged dormant per-"mission to adopt." The inference drawn by the Court below from that statement of facts was that the whole conduct of the lady and the conduct of the family was inconsistent with the oral testimony which was given, and they preferred that inference so drawn from such conduct to the oral testimony. The Court then proceeded to deal with the evidence of Dr. Elton, which they considered to be the only oral evidence that might be entitled to credit. They came to the conclusion that it was mere hearsay testimony, in which opinion this Court also agrees.

Their Lordships are unable to see any sufficient ground whatever upon which they can say that the High Court in Bengal was wrong in preferring the conclusions to be drawn from these acts and the conduct of the parties to the oral testimony, that testimony being of a kind which, in their Lordships' experience, is generally liable to be doubly suspicious, there being also an amount of conflicting evidence. There is also this fact which is not mentioned in the judgment, but which has struck their Lordships—a document which is proved in evidence, which seems to be an authentic document, by which the father-in-law, years before his death, registers another deed or power of adoption in the same family, reciting in it that there was no power of adoption given in respect of his eldest son who is deceased—a fact which apparently he had no reason whatever for inventing if it were not true.

On the whole, their Lordships are of opinion that there are no sufficient grounds for disturbing the conclusion which was arrived at by the High Court, and they will humbly recommend Her Majesty that this appeal be dismissed with costs.

The 5th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Benamee purchase—Onus probandi—Life-interest.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Rajah Chundernath Roy

versus

Ramjoy Mozoomdar.

Plaintiff sued for the recovery of certain property on the allegation that, though the property was purchased by *A*, his adoptive mother, benamee in the name of *B*, yet that she purchased it out of her own separate income so as to make it her property, and that plaintiff, as her heir, was on her death entitled to the property. The defendant denied that the purchase was made with the money of *A*, and averred that the property was purchased with the money of *B*, the person in whose name the purchase stood.

Held that the defendant's answer was substantially an argumentative traverse of the truth of the plaintiff's story, and that the material issue was, not whether the defendant's averment of purchase with the money of *B* was made out, but whether the plaintiff's story of purchase by *A* with her own money benamee in the name of *B* was true.

Held, further, that, even if *A* purchased the property with her own money, yet nevertheless, if she purchased it with the express intention at the time that, after her death, it should go to *B*, in whose name she purchased it, that would not be a purchase benamee within the meaning of the real issue in the case, and that it would make no difference in point of law whether *A* did or did not reserve a life-interest and control over the disposition of the proceeds of the property during her life.

THIS was a suit brought by Rajah Chundernath Roy, as son and heir-at-law of the late Rajah Anundnath Roy Bahadoor, to recover certain properties, six in number, from Ramjoy Mozoomdar, the nominal defendant, being the guardian of Chundernath, *alias* Ramchunder Chuckerbutty, who is an infant; and the ground on which the suit was brought was that the plaintiff was the heir of the Ranee Hurreepreah, who had been one of the widows of his father, of whom he was the adopted son, and to whom he had made some very liberal allowances—the properties in question having been purchased by her out of the income which she enjoyed. There is no doubt that, under these circumstances, he was her heir. But the question in dispute was whether the properties in question had been purchased by her, as it is called, benamee, that is to say, had been purchased in the name of other persons, but so as to be her property? The Court below have decided that they were not so purchased, but were purchased with an intention that they should go after her death to the defendant.

Now, the first objection taken by Sir Roundell Palmer was, that the defence relied on in the case was not open on the pleadings. For that purpose, it is necessary shortly to refer to what the pleadings were. Now, the plaint states generally the circumstances under which the plaintiff says he became entitled, that Hurreepreah had purchased them in the way I have said, benamee, and accordingly as her heir they came to him. Then the defendant in his answer, no doubt, sets up a case which was not maintained by the evidence at all, that they had not been purchased with the Ranee's money, but had been purchased with the proper money of the persons in whose name the purchase was made. Then the material issue which was directed to be tried by the Court, being the first issue, was "whether Ranee Hurree-"preah, the stepmother of the plaintiff, was "entitled to, and in possession of, all the "contested properties by acquiring them be-"namee of the persons alleged by the plaint-"iff; or whether they were acquired by "the several persons alleged by the defend-"ant, and accordingly held in their possession, "and have afterwards come to the minor, "Ram Chunder?" Now, it is obvious that this issue, in substance, is this—is the plaintiff's story stated in his plaint true, or is the defendant's story stated in his answer true? It is, of course, a possible thing that neither of the stories may be true, and the question then arises which of these two alternatives of the issue is the really material one? Their Lordships think that the really mate-

* From the judgment of Kemp and Pundit, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 454 of 1862, dated 2nd September 1863—see Sevestre's Gap Number for 1863, page 150.

rial one is the first part of the issue, *viz.*, is the plaintiff's story true? It is not as if the defendant's defence was, as we should say in the common law, a plea in confession and avoidance—a plea which admitted that the plaintiff's story was true, and then avoided it. If that had been the case, and the defendant had failed to prove his case, of course the defendant must have failed, and the plaintiff ought to recover. But it is substantially what at common law we should call an argumentative traverse of the truth of the plaintiff's story, for it does not admit that one word of it is true, but sets up certain things perfectly inconsistent with it. The real truth is that the second alternative of the issue ought to be rejected, and the real question is "whether the Ranee Hur-"reepreah, the stepmother of the plaintiff, "was entitled to—," which I think must mean was entitled to *at the time of her death*, because that is the material thing, "and in possession of, all the contested pro-"perties by acquiring them benamee of the "persons alleged by the plaintiff." If the plaintiff has failed to prove the affirmative of that issue, if it appears on his own evidence that they were not so purchased, and did not so continue at the time of her death, the consequence is the plaintiff must fail, and the defendant may say: "It is "wholly immaterial whether I prove my case "or not; you have not proved yours."

Their Lordships are, therefore, of opinion that it was perfectly open to the Court to decide the case on the grounds on which they do decide it. Their Lordships are also of opinion that the Court below have not at all miscarried in point of law; that if the real truth of the facts is this, that though these properties were purchased—as unquestionably on the evidence their Lordships think they were—with the money of the Rance Hurreepreah, yet nevertheless, if she purchased them with the express intention at the time that, after her death, they should go, as to those which were purchased first to Sheeb Soonduree, and as to those which were purchased afterwards to Ram Chunder, that would not be a purchase benamee within the meaning of the issue; that would not be a purchase on the terms that the property was to be absolutely hers, but would be a purchase with the intention of benefiting the person in whose name the purchase was made; and their Lordships are of opinion that it would make no difference in point of law whether she did or did not reserve a life-interest and control over the disposition of the proceeds of the property during her life. One may observe that on the evidence it would rather appear that she, during her lifetime, did bestow very considerable benefits on both the mother Sheeb Soonduree and the boy, so that practically, in all probability, she gave them quite as much as the proceeds of the property.

Well, then, the Court below not having miscarried in point of law, so far from having miscarried in point of fact, the evidence is very strong, indeed, that the purchase from the very beginning was made with the intention that the property should not go to her heir at-law, but should go to Sheeb Soonduree, or, if Sheeb Soonduree was dead, should go to Ram Chunder. It is really quite sufficient to refer to a single witness at page 29. "The witness, on hearing the deposition, said "that his answer to the question by the "Court has not been taken down; my answer "is that the Ranee used to say that all these "properties were Ram Chunder's, and her "care was that they remain as Ram Chun-"der's." It is perfectly plain that she had purchased them with the original intention of benefiting him in order that, after her death, they might go to him.

That being the case, their Lordships are of opinion that they must advise Her Majesty that this appeal should be dismissed.

The 6th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Prejudice against party to suit—Transfer of suit—Application to Zillah Judge.

On Appeal from the High Court at Agra.

Mohur Singh

versus

Ghureeba and others.

Where there is a general feeling in a district against the party to a suit, and such party feels that he is not likely to have a fair trial before the local Judge with that feeling in the district against him, his proper course is to petition the European Judge to remove the case into his Court, and to try it in the first instance.

THIS case has been before three Courts in India, of which the High Court, of course, merely dealt with the points of law which were raised on special appeal, and have not been very strongly pressed here. There are

two questions in the cause. The first is whether the respondents, the plaintiffs in the Court below, have succeeded in establishing that, when their puttee was confiscated and sold under one of the penal Acts passed during the time of the Mutiny, it was purchased by the appellant in the name of his son, upon the contract or understanding that, upon payment of the whole purchase money, of which the plaintiffs had already paid part, the rest being found by the appellant, they should be put in possession of the whole of their ancestral rights in the puttee? That is a question of fact; and if that agreement is made out to have been the understanding and contract between the parties, the second question is, what are the equities which should be applied to it?

Mr. Leith, having to contend with the judgment of the two Courts which tried the question of fact, has very fairly brought to our notice certain grounds upon which their conclusion should be impeached, and it is impossible to deny that several of those grounds have some foundation. He has urged, first, that a considerable amount of the evidence admitted was mere hearsay evidence; secondly, that among the evidence which was improperly admitted was the conviction by the Magistrate, which ought not, in any point of view, to have been used as evidence against the party in the civil suit, according to the strict rules of evidence, and which, having been reversed by the Judge, no matter on what grounds, had ceased to be a standing conviction against the appellant. The third ground taken was the state of feeling against the appellant in the district; and in particular the strong animosity existing between him and the tehseeldar and Syud Ali Shah, who were two of the witnesses; and the last ground upon which the finding of the two Courts was impeached was the strong improbability that the appellant, who had been instrumental in bringing to justice certain persons of this village connected with the plaintiffs, should have been the person chosen to make the purchase on their behalf.

It seems to their Lordships that, giving full weight to all these objections, there is still sufficient and more than sufficient proof in the unsuspected evidence given in the cause to support the decrees against which the appeal is brought. Their Lordships, of course, do not give to a decree founded upon evidence which has been so impeached the same weight which they would give to the finding of an Indian Court upon evidence against which no such objection can be alleged. But they are not in the position of a Court of law in this country before which, on a motion for new trial, it is shown that evidence improper to be admitted has been admitted before the Jury. The Court in that case are not judges of fact, and are unable to say what weight the Jury may have given to the evidence that ought not to have been admitted. But it is the duty of their Lordships, who are judges of the fact in such a case as this, to consider whether, throwing aside the evidence which ought not to have been admitted, there still remains sufficient evidence to support the decrees. Their Lordships, nevertheless, must express their regret that the Court of first instance in the case before them should have been as lax as it has been in the admission of evidence. The improper reception of evidence is always to be deprecated, if only from its tendency to provoke an appeal.

Now, setting aside all the hearsay evidence, setting aside the conviction (the proceedings in reference to which seem to have been of a somewhat singular character), and even, for the sake of argument, admitting that the tehseeldar's evidence is not to be entirely relied upon, though their Lordships are by no means prepared to say that that person is unworthy of credit, and resting solely on the evidence which was given by the bankers, and the person described as the zemindar of Baroot, it seems to their Lordships impossible to say that the finding of the Court below was wrong. The bankers' evidence is peculiarly valuable, because it is clear upon the proceeding that the whole of the village of Baroot was sold together. The bankers were the persons who were employed by persons interested in the other puttee forming part of that village to purchase it on their account. They admit such a contract. They speak from their own knowledge to the fact that the Singhs bought in the same way for the benefit of the persons interested in the other puttee, and they speak also to payment of the earnest-money. The other witness is apparently a witness of greater respectability than we usually find in such a case. It is impossible for their Lordships sitting here to estimate the force of the arguments which have been brought against the testimony of these witnesses by Mr. Leith; it is impossible for them to say what may be the feelings which have possibly prompted their evidence against the appellant. Certainly the general feeling of the district seems to be strongly against him, and the conviction that the transaction which the plaintiffs have put forward is really a true transaction appears to be general. But can we thence infer that the respondents' case is a false story? It is just

as likely to be true, and one can conceive no story which, if true, would be more likely to create a general feeling against the appellant. If he felt that he was not likely to have a fair trial before the local Judge with that feeling in the district against him, his proper course was to petition the European Judge to remove the case into his Court, and to try it in the first instance. But if he has not done that – if he has taken a trial in the ordinary Court, and that Court has found against him, and the evidence properly received appears to their Lordships to be trustworthy, or at least to be such that it is impossible for them to say that it is not trustworthy—how can their Lordships be called upon now to set aside the finding of that Judge, confirmed as it was afterwards, on appeal, by the Zillah Judge?

In the Court of first instance, the Principal Sudder Ameen seems to their Lordships to have mistaken the effect of the contract, and to have held that the parties were entitled to recover only such a proportion of the lands as the sum which they had actually paid might be taken to represent. The Zillah Judge, Mr. Sapte, seems to have put a more correct interpretation upon the contract. He treated it as a contract upon which, on payment of the balance, they would be entitled to the whole. He did not fix a period at which this redemption, if one may so call it, was to take place; but that was set right by the decree of the High Court.

It, therefore, seems to their Lordships that, on the whole, substantial justice has been done in this case, and they will advise Her Majesty to dismiss the appeal.

The 7th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Succession—Coparceny—Custom—Ancestral property.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Umritnath Chowdhry

versus

Goureenath Chowdhry and others.

By the common law of Hindoostan, the descent is in coparceny where no other custom or right is proved. The fact that a settlement was made by the Government in the name of an elder son, and that he has continued to be solely registered from that time to this, affords no conclusive evidence against the title of the younger brother in property which was once the property of the father. The mere fact that one of two brothers was registered, so as to be the proprietor to the outer world, is not of great weight on that point, if there has been a continuous enjoyment of the property by both brothers upon equal terms.

THIS case, which has occupied the greater part of two days, appears to their Lordships, when reduced to its legitimate and reasonable dimensions, to be a very short case. The relevant and material facts are few and not substantially in dispute for any purpose which their Lordships have to decide.

The contention on the part of the plaintiffs below—the respondents here—is that a certain estate, a zemindary with accretions which, beyond all reasonable question, had been made by the investment of the profits of that estate, was an ancestral estate which descended to them and the appellant, who was a cousin, in coparceny. It is admitted that, by the common law of Hindoostan, the descent is in coparceny where no other custom or right is proved. The case of the plaintiffs was that this property was ancestral property, which had belonged to their grandfather, one Hurjee, and descended from Hurjee upon the two sons, Bacharam and Sheebloll, the fathers of the respective parties.

The case mainly relied upon in the Court in India on the other side was, that there was no foundation whatever for this assertion: that the property was not ancestral property—that the grandfather never had any pro-

* From the judgment of Kemp and Pundit, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 474 of 1862, decided 5th October 1863—not reported.

perty at all, but that it was an acquisition by Bacharam himself under a grant made to him individually—or, as we should say in English law, an acquisition by him by purchase: so that he became a new root of descent, and so that the common title alleged to be derived from the grandfather had no existence.

Now, it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court below, and proved entirely to the satisfaction of their Lordships—indeed was hardly disputed at last in the arguments at the bar—that this property was originally a zemindary, of which Hurjee, the grandfather, was possessed. Document after document, and all the evidence in the cause, go to show that Bacharam in the first settlement, then in the decennial settlement, and then in the perpetual settlement, claimed to have it made with him by reason of his hereditary right to the zemindary as hereditary zemindar. That being proved, that it was Hurjee's property, and that Bacharam was entitled by descent, of course the next proposition would equally follow, unless there is something to exclude it; that is, that he would not be entitled to it himself, but that he and his brother would succeed to it as coparceners.

Well, has anything occurred to divest that right which, in a case of ordinary property, was certainly vested in the two jointly at the time when the history of this case begins? Their Lordships are unable to find anything to alter the right which existed at the time when the descent was cast. The fact that the settlement was made in the name of the elder son—whether, originally, when he was a minor, or not—the fact that he has continued to be solely registered from that time to this, affords no conclusive evidence against the title of the shareholder. There is documentary evidence, on the other side, of his being recognized as a shareholder, but not very strong or very conclusive evidence. The mere fact that one of the two brothers was registered, so as to be the proprietor to the outer world, does not seem to their Lordships to be of very great weight any more than it did to the Court below; and in respect to the actual enjoyment of the property, there has been beyond all question a continuous enjoyment by both upon equal terms. The two lived together; the families lived together, they messed together, and all the marriage and funeral ceremonies and other ceremonies of their religion were performed at the joint expense out of the income of the property, and apparently, as far as their Lordships can see, upon equal terms, and not as the bounty of an elder brother to a mere dependant who had no right whatever to the property.

It appears to their Lordships, therefore, that the case, as principally alleged in the Court below, has entirely failed, and it becomes necessary to consider the other topics which have been very much relied upon at the bar here, as they were at a late part of the case in the Court below. It is alleged that, admitting it to have been Hurjee's property, admitting it to have been ancestral property in that sense, it was property which descended to Bacharam as the eldest male heir by reason of its being subject to a custom of primogeniture. The custom of primogeniture is stated in two ways, first as a custom of a district so as to bring it within the Regulation of 1800; that is to say, it is the custom of a district supposed to be a jungle mehal in zillah Bhaugulpore. Now, of the existence in any known district whatever of anything which can be predicated as a jungle mehal in which this zemindary is situated, there is neither pleading nor evidence. There is nothing at all to show any custom, except a Collector's letter with respect to a custom extending to all the zemindaries throughout the whole Zillah of Bhaugulpore; and certainly it would be very strong indeed to hold, merely upon that evidence, that there was a custom proved extending to the whole of the Zillah of Bhaugulpore, or to the whole of any undefined district within that zillah, of which the Court below says it has never heard anything, it being, they say, perfectly notorious that no such custom exists within that district. Well, then, the evidence of that custom appears to their Lordships to be absolutely nothing. Then, there is the other custom—supposed to be a family-custom, a custom of this particular family, under which custom it is alleged that Bacharam succeeded at such a time—that is before the year 1794, in such a way as to exclude the title of his younger brother. Of that family-custom there really is no sufficient allegation, if there be any allegation at all. Their Lordships find nothing on the pleadings to raise such a custom as that in the manner in which it ought to have been raised, if it was intended to have been pleaded and proved in this case. It is, in fact, inconsistent with the case almost entirely relied on by the defendant in the Court below; that is to say, of the new acquisition made by him under the grant or pottah from the Government. But if there be anything which is sufficient to raise it, which their Lordships do not see, there is an equal want of satisfactory evidence of any such custom. There is some trace in the Collec-

tor's letter of a sort of general custom extending through the whole of Bhaugulpore, all the zemindaries being held by that kind of title; but the genealogical tree, which is the only thing otherwise which is in evidence, is certainly, in their Lordships' judgment, insufficient to found a family-custom, which the Court below have held must be proved by something like what we should call in this country immemorial usage. It is a thing which cannot be predicated of a simple and single estate, the title to which dates from comparatively a short period of time back. Both these cases of family and local custom, the burden of which was entirely on the defendant, have failed, and that brings it back to the case which the plaintiffs below had to prove; that is the simple fact, that this was ancestral property of their common grandfather.

That being so, and it being substantially admitted that there was no other source from which the acquisitions could be made, the decree of the Court below seems to their Lordships to be right, and they will, therefore, recommend Her Majesty that the decree be affirmed, and the appeal dismissed.

The 8th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Title—Conveyance—Adoption—Deeds—Suspicion—Perjury and forgery.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Kali Chunder Chowdhry

versus

Shib Chunder Bhadoory and others.

Where a Hindoo executes a kobala in favor of another at a time when he has no title to the property, his subsequently becoming entitled as heir would not make the kobala good.

The mere circumstance that a deed of adoption is not registered is no ground why the adoption should not be believed.

Instruments which are proved by all the attesting witnesses, and against which there is no evidence on the other side, ought not to be set aside and treated as worth nothing on a mere possible suspicion of perjury and forgery.

* From the judgment of E. Jackson and Glover, JJ., in Special Appeal No. 3554 of 1864, dated 12th April 1865—2 W. R., *Civil*, p. 281.

THIS is an action brought to recover a talook, called No. 396, Sakeer Mamood, and both the plaintiffs, who are respondents in this appeal, and the first defendant, who is the appellant, claim by deeds under the same owner, *viz.*, Godadhur Toee. A kobala under which the plaintiffs claim was the first executed in point of time. It was not a kobala executed to the plaintiffs themselves, but was executed to Kedar Nath Lahoory, who is the third defendant, and who subsequently executed another kobala to the defendants. But it was objected on the part of the first defendant in the Courts below, and also before us, that, at the time when Godadhur Toee executed that kobala under which the plaintiffs claim, he had no right or title to the property in question at all. It appears to be admitted on all hands in the Court below that if he had no title to the property at the time he executed that kobala, his subsequently becoming entitled as heir would not make the kobala good.

Now, the question whether he had any title to the property at the time he executed that kobala appears entirely to depend upon this—whether Hurree Coomar Toee, who was the original owner of the property, had adopted Beny Chunder as his adopted son during his lifetime; because, if he had so adopted him, then Beny Chunder was the heir of Hurree Coomar, and became entitled to the property on Hurree Coomar's death; and as Beny Chunder did not die until after the execution of the first kobala by Godadhur Toee, under which the plaintiffs claim, if the adoption of Beny Chunder was good, then that kobala was bad, and the plaintiffs have not made out their title.

The whole question, therefore, turns on whether there was a good adoption of Beny Chunder by Hurree Coomar. The two Courts, the first Court before which the case was heard and the Court of Appeal, have come to different conclusions on the question. The Judge of the first instance—although he mentions other grounds, which their Lordships do not think tenable, for his decision—came to the conclusion that the adoption was good. He believed the evidence of it, and believed that the documents relating to it were genuine documents. On the other hand, the Principal Sudder Ameen came to the conclusion that the adoption never had taken place at all; he disbelieved the witnesses who spoke to it, and seems to have come to the conclusion that all the documents which were produced in support of it were forgeries.

Now, their Lordships have carefully examined the evidence on the one side and on the other; and they are of opinion that the evidence in favor of the adoption very greatly preponderates. The adoption is proved by a considerable number of apparently respectable persons, and the documents necessary to constitute an adoption are produced and proved by the attesting witnesses. It will be right, however, to examine the reasons given by the Principal Sudder Ameen for refusing to believe that the adoption had taken place. In the first place, it is said that there are not sufficient members of the family and persons of the same caste called as might have been expected. The answer to that appears to be very clear, *viz.*, that it is admitted on all hands that Hurree Coomar had, in fact, no relations whatever except this Godadhur Toee, who was a very distant relation, and therefore it is impossible that others should have been called. Then, another objection that is made is that the priest of the family, who appears to have been the person who is alleged to have performed the ceremony, when called as a witness, denies that there was any adoption at all. It appears, however, that this very priest is himself a witness to the deed of gift, and he denies that that deed was a genuine deed, and says that he himself, in fact, was a party to the subsequent fabrication of it; his story being that the adoption was a thing which had not taken place at all in Hurree Coomar's lifetime, but was only thought of after his death. Their Lordships are of opinion that no weight whatever ought to be given to the evidence of a witness who himself comes and says, not only that the deeds were forged, but that he himself had been a party to the making of them. Then it is said that the barber also gives evidence against it. Whether the witness who is supposed to be the barber was the barber or not does not at all clearly appear. He does not himself say that he was a barber; he only says that he was a ryot who had the means of knowing, and who knew something about it, because, he says, he occasionally went to the house. But then it is a very strong confirmation of the truth of the adoption that, with one exception, all the witnesses who are called against the adoption, and profess to say there was no adoption, admit that this boy, Beny Chunder, was, some say one year, and some two years, before Hurree Coomar's death, brought to Hurree Coomar's house, and there lived with him, and was brought up, in fact, as his son—one of them says with a view to adoption. Now, no doubt, that does not of itself make an adopted son or make him the heir; but when you find a larger body of witnesses, who appear to have had quite as much or better knowledge of the facts, come and say that the ceremonies of adoption were actually performed, and that they were present at them, and that the deeds were genuine deeds, then the fact that these witnesses who deny the adoption are obliged to admit that the boy was being brought up in the house during Hurree Coomar's lifetime very strongly confirms their evidence.

It is said also that the deeds were not registered. If they had been registered, it would have been more clear, but it appears to be such a common thing not to register deeds that their Lordships cannot think the mere circumstance of their not being registered is any ground why the adoption should not be believed. Then, indeed, the Judge who disbelieves the adoption himself refers to the wuseatnamah, which was executed by the widow appointing the guardians, as a genuine instrument. If that is so, it is the strongest evidence of the adoption, for it in terms recognizes the adoption as having been made.

It is important also to consider on which side the possession went, because if the adop-

tion was recognized soon or immediately after Hurree Coomar's death and between his death and the death of the adopted son, and the adopted son was the party in possession, and not the alleged heir, that is very much in favor of the adoption. Now, the great weight of evidence clearly is, that the adopted son was in possession. There was an inquiry before the Magistrate, which resulted in the adoption being recognized; the guardians of the infant took possession; they gave a lease of the property to the third defendant, under which he took possession, and under which possession has, in fact, been kept up to the present time. Therefore, the possession has gone along with it; and though Godadhur Toee certainly seems to have executed this kobala to the party under whom the plaintiffs claim, he did not, as far as their Lordships can see, during the life of the adopted son, take any other step whatever. It is proved by two witnesses that the purchase-money which he was to receive was not paid at the time; whether it has been paid afterwards is left in a great deal of doubt, and that circumstance tends to show that he was not the real owner in possession, but a person who was merely selling a possible title.

Under these circumstances, their Lordships are of opinion that, although, no doubt, it may be desirable carefully to examine cases of possible fraud, yet that instruments which are proved by all the attesting witnesses, and against which there is no evidence on the other side, ought not to be set aside and treated as worth nothing on a mere possible suspicion of perjury and forgery.

There was an appeal to the High Court purely on points of law, but those points have not been argued before their Lordships--in fact, they have been abandoned.

Their Lordships will, therefore, recommend Her Majesty to affirm the decision of the High Court dismissing the special appeal; to allow the appeal so far as it relates to the decree of the Principal Sudder Ameen, to reverse that decree, and to declare that, in lieu thereof, a decree should be made dismissing the appeal from the Court of first instance with costs; to declare further that any costs which the appellant may have paid in India other than the costs of the special appeal be repaid to him; the appellant to have the costs of this appeal, except so far as they have been increased by appealing against the decree of the High Court.

The 8th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Mortgage—Consideration-money—Foreclosure—Estoppel.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Ram Surun Singh

versus

Mussamut Pran Pearee.

A defendant, who has executed a mortgage and formally acknowledged under his hand and seal the receipt of the consideration-money, may, in a suit for foreclosure by the mortgagee out of possession, deny that the money was advanced, the mortgage-deed not creating any estoppel.

In this case their Lordships are of opinion that it is impossible to treat this deed of conditional sale and mortgage as creating any estoppel. It is sought to be enforced by a person out of possession. It is, in truth, the case of a common mortgage in

* From the judgment of Steer and Levinge, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 147 of 1864, dated 21st September 1864—1 W. R., p. 156.

which the defendant says there never was the money advanced. It is open to a mortgagor in this country to deny that the money, the receipt of which is formally acknowledged under his hand and seal, was advanced, and to cut it down to a nominal sum or nothing. That being so, and the instrument being relied upon by a person out of possession seeking to obtain possession through the medium of a foreclosure-suit, it appears to their Lordships that there is nothing whatever to prevent the defendant from showing the real truth of the transaction. Then, with regard to the supposed estoppel by pleading, it is equally clear that a pleading by two defendants against the suit of another plaintiff never can amount to an estoppel as between them. Their Lordships are satisfied that the decision of the High Court was quite right. Their Lordships will, therefore, advise Her Majesty that it be affirmed, and the appeal dismissed with costs.

The 10th December 1871.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice James, and Lord Justice Mellish.

Issues—Practice—Appellate Court.

On Appeal from the High Court at Agra.

Mussamut Mitna

versus

Syud Fuzl Rub and others.

Observations on the settling of issues by Courts of original jurisdiction under the Code of Civil Procedure, and on the duty of an Appellate Court when an objection is made before it that the first Court did not lay down issues in a case.

It has candidly been admitted by the learned Counsel for the appellants that in this case they would despair of inducing their Lordships to interfere with the finding of the Courts in India upon the questions of fact, and the conclusions which they have drawn from the evidence on the record. The question upon the appeal, therefore, is narrowed to this, has there been in this cause such a mis-trial as renders it incumbent upon their Lordships to reverse the decisions under appeal, and to remand the case for the settlement of proper issues and a re-trial upon those issues?

Their Lordships are desirous to say nothing which may have the effect of introducing any laxity in the Courts of India in regard to the observance of those provisions of the Code which direct the settlement of issues, provisions which their Lordships regard as most important. But they do not find in the Code anything which says positively that the omission to settle those issues is fatal to the trial. With respect to the former decisions of this Court, it is to be observed that the decisions upon the regulations which preceded the passing of this Code of Procedure were not altogether uniform. Most of them show their Lordships' desire to maintain the strictness of the obligation on the Judges of the country Courts to record the points to be tried, but there is one which has been cited by Sir Roundell Palmer, which certainly shows that they did not in all cases consider the omission to be fatal. Those regulations, moreover, contained words to the effect that no evidence should be given except upon points which had been recorded. The case in 11 Moore, which is a case upon the Code of Procedure, appears to have been complex, and the explanation given for what took place in that case certainly shows that their Lordships may have been exercising a discretion which cannot now be questioned. All these cases, however, differ from the present case in this respect. In this case the omission to raise the issues was brought before the notice of the Appellate Court. The Appellate Court expressed its regret, and their Lordships are glad to observe that it did express its regret, that the Judge below had omitted to settle the issues. The Court, however, nevertheless conceived that it was not under any positive obligation to remand the case; but seeing that the parties had gone to trial knowing what the real question between them was, that the evidence had been taken, and that the conclusion had been, in the opinion of the Appellate Court, correctly drawn from that evidence, they thought it within their competence to affirm that decision, without sending the case back for a re-trial. Their Lordships sitting here are not prepared to say that the Court had not power to do so under the 354th Section of the Code. At all events, it appears to their Lordships that there is nothing in the

Code which made it imperative upon the Appellate Court, or now makes it imperative upon their Lordships, to yield to that objection, and therefore, fully concurring in the observations made by the Appellate Court, that it was the duty of the Judge to settle the issues, and that it was much to be regretted that he omitted to settle those issues, they still think that, under all the circumstances of the case, substantial justice having been done, there has not been that fatal mis-trial of the cause which vitiates all the proceedings, and, renders a new trial necessary.

Their Lordships, in coming to this conclusion, have had regard to the circumstance that no objection seems to have been taken in the Court below to dealing with the case without the settlement of the issues. If the objection had been taken. their Lordships think that the appellant would have stood on higher grounds. and it would then have been very difficult to say that a trial proceeding in the face of the objection could be held to be regular for any purpose. They do not, however, mean to affirm that mere waiver, or rather the omission to take the objection, is in all cases sufficient to purge the irregularity. They are of opinion that, if it had appeared that substantial justice had not been done, the objection might well have been taken, when it was taken, before the Appellate Court, and when taken, ought to have prevailed. But being of opinion that there has not, in this case, been a failure of justice in consequence of the omission to settle the issues, their Lordships are not prepared to send it back for further litigation, and they must, therefore, advise Her Majesty to dismiss the appeal with costs.

The 10th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile. Lord Justice James, and Lord Justice Mellish

Appeal—Hindoo widow—Succession—Estoppel.

On Appeal from the High Court at Agra

Mussamut Oodey Koowur

versus

Mussamut Ladoo and others.

Where a case, heard in review before the four Judges of the late Sudder Court at Agra, was left undecided (because the four Judges were equally divided in opinion), when the High Court in the North-Western Provinces was established, it was held that one of the Judges of the High Court, sitting as a single Judge, had jurisdiction, under Section 27 of the Letters Patent, to hear and determine the case.

B B, a Hindoo, had two sons, *K S* and *S L*, and a widow (*L*). *K S* pre-deceased *B B*. *S L* was afterwards given in adoption by *B B* and *L* to the widow (*O*) of *K S*, but such adoption was invalid, as *K S* had not given *O* permission to adopt. *B B* and his son *S L* then died, the latter surviving the former. Before his death, *B B* mortgaged the property in suit, and in a suit brought in the name of *S L*, after his death, against the mortgagees, *L* put in a petition, in which she agreed that *S L* and *O* should alone be entered as the owners of the property, and that her own name should be omitted. In a further suit for redemption of the mortgage, *L* put in another petition, in which she said she had no claim whatever to the proprietary rights in the property, and that *O*, in her own right and as guardian of *S L*, was the proprietor and owner. *L* now sued the widow of *K S*, alleging that she is the heir of *S L*, and as such entitled to the property.

HELD that, on the death of *B B*, *S L* became his heir, and upon the death of *S L*, *L* was entitled to the property.

HELD, further, that *L* was not estopped by her petitions in the two suits referred to from claiming the property as heir to *S L*, as at the time she presented the petitions she had not, in fact, any interest in the property at all; and that, assuming that *L* did intend to convey a part-interest in the property, which she supposed or assumed she had, she could not, on any principle of law or justice, be prevented from setting up her real right as heir of her son when that right actually accrued.

THE first question in this is, whether there was any jurisdiction in the Chief Justice for the North-Western Provinces to make the decree, from which the appeal is brought, in the Court below? Now the matter has been inquired into, their Lordships are clearly of opinion that there was such jurisdiction. The appeal had been brought to the Sudder Adawlut of the North-Western Provinces, and the Judges of that Court had given a decision. Then an application had been made for a review, and an order was made that the case should be heard on review. It was so heard before four Judges, who were equally divided in opinion. By the law as it then stood, as

appears by the order made at the end of their judgment, they being equally divided in opinion, the case was, under the provisions of Section 7, Regulation VI. of 1831, referred for the opinion of one or more Judges of the High Court of Calcutta. There was, however, a power by the 24th and 25th Vic., c. 104, for the Crown to erect a Court in the North-Western Provinces, and by Letters Patent of the 17th March 1866 the Crown did erect a High Court in the North-Western Provinces, which had the effect of abolishing the jurisdiction of the Sudder Adawlut. The consequence was that, no final decision having been given on review, that proceeding was a proceeding pending which was, therefore, to be decided by the new High Court of the North-Western Provinces. The 27th Section of those Letters Patent is as follows: "We do hereby declare "that any function which is hereby directed "to be performed by the said High Court of "Judicature for the North-Western Provinces, "in the exercise of its original or appellate "jurisdiction, may be performed by any "Judge;" and, accordingly, Sir Walter Morgan (the Chief Justice) did sit, apparently as a single Judge. He appears to have heard the parties and given his final decision, and that was the decision of the High Court of Agra, which, their Lordships are of opinion, had, under these circumstances, jurisdiction, and the appeal, therefore, is brought from that decision.

Now, the action itself is an action brought by one Hindoo widow, Mussamut Ladoo against another Hindoo widow, Mussamut Oodey, the widow of her eldest son, to recover three several properties. The only question before their Lordships relates to two of those properties, because, as to the third property, all the Judges below agree that the plaintiff was entitled to recover, and there is no appeal as to that. The plaintiff brought the suit on the ground that the defendant was in possession of the property, but that she, the plaintiff, was entitled to it as heir-at-law of her son Shib Lall, and there appears no question that she was such heir-at-law. The property had originally belonged to Buldeo Buksh. He had two sons, of whom one, the husband of the defendant in the suit, died in the lifetime of Buldeo Buksh. There appears to have been some attempted adoption, that is to say, Buldeo Buksh and Mussamut Ladoo appear to have attempted to give their second son, who was an infant, as an adopted son to the widow of their eldest son. But it is admitted that, for various reasons, that adoption, if it were ever attempted, was wholly invalid according to Hindoo Law; if for no other reason, at any rate for this reason, that the husband of the widow who made the adoption, had never given any permission to the widow to make such adoption, and it was admitted before us that the adoption was wholly invalid.

Well, then, that being so, it is plain that the son Shib Lall, on the death of Buldeo Buksh, became solely entitled to the property; and upon his death his mother became entitled as his heir, and therefore, if the matter remained there, it is admitted that she would be entitled. But it is alleged that she had done certain acts and become a party to certain documents, the effect of which was, at any rate as to these two latter portions of the property, to prevent her from recovering.

Buldeo Buksh had mortgaged these two properties in question, and a suit had been commenced, first in the name of Shib Lall by his assumed guardian, probably in the first instance on account of this invalid adoption, against the mortgagees to redeem the mortgage, which was resisted by them on the ground, which it is now quite immaterial to consider, that the mortgage had been a real sale. Some proceedings had also taken place for the mutation of names; and it would appear that, in those proceedings for the mutation of names, the Collector and the parties had wrongfully assumed that the two widows and the son were jointly heirs of Buldeo Buksh. Then it was said that, the plaintiff being old, and not wishing to interfere with the affairs, she had agreed that Shib Lall and Mussamut Oodey should alone be entered as the owners of the property, and that her name should be omitted.

Then in the suit for the redemption of the mortgage, an objection was taken by the mortgagees that the suit was wrongly constituted, because Mussamut Ladoo, and not Mussamut Oodey, was the proper guardian of the infant and the proper person to bring the suit. On that occasion, Mussamut Ladoo presented a petition, on which the matter before us principally turns, the main object of which unquestionably was to enable the suit to be carried on by Mussamut Oodey, either in her own name or as guardian of the infant, without joining the name of Mussamut Ladoo, and the entire contention on the part of the appellant before us is that, by the proceedings which have been already described with respect to the mutation of names, and by the language of this petition, Mussamut Ladoo, in fact, abandoned all her right to the property in question, so that, when she became, in

point of law, entitled to the property as heir of her son, she could no longer avail herself of that right as against the defendant. The petition is in these terms: "Humbly show-"eth the facts regarding the suit instituted "in this Court by Mussamut Oodey Koowur, "the widow of my deceased son Kullyan "Singh, to recover possession by redemption "of mortgage of mouzahs Omeepore and "Umlera, pergunnah Chandouse, valued at "Rupees 81,000 against Mussamuts Kur-"reemoolnissa, Muhtab Koowur, and Chand "Koowur, defendants, are as follow: Since "the date of Kullyan Singh's demise, Bul-"deo Buksh, my husband, and myself gave "our son Sheo Lall to Mussamut Oodey Koo-"wur to be adopted as her son, and since "then she has been his guardian and pro-"tectress. Moreover, owing to my old age, "infirmity, and imbecility, I also caused only "the names of Oodey Koowur and Sheo Lall "to be entered in the proprietary column of "the certificate of death of Buldeo Buksh, "and I have no claim whatever to the pro-"prietary rights in the two villages in "question; Oodey Koowur, however, herself, "and as guardian of Sheo Lall, being their sole "owner. I have now become very old and "imbecile, and have no strength to go about, "look after, or understand my affairs, and "Mussamut Oodey Koowur herself, and as "guardian of Sheo Lall, my son, is in every "way proprietor and owner."

If that is to prevent her recovering the property now in question, it must do so, either because it operated as a conveyance or as a contract to convey the interest which she now claims, or because it operated by way of estoppel. There is no other way in which it can operate. Now, did it operate either as a conveyance or as a contract to convey the interest to which she has now become entitled as heir of her son? Their Lordships are of opinion that it is quite impossible that it could so operate, and that for two reasons: first, because, at the time when she presented this petition, she had not, in fact, any interest in the property at all, and certainly had not become entitled to any interest as the heir of her son, who was at that time alive; and in the next place, there is not the least reason to suppose that in the petition she in any degree contemplated a conveyance of any such right. That was not the right which they were then considering at all. The main object of the petition was simply to enable the redemption-suit to go on, and to enable the persons who had begun it as plaintiffs—Oodey Koowur and Sheo Lall—to carry it on. There was nothing in the language and nothing in the position of the parties which could lead any one to suppose that she had any interest that she might hereafter acquire as heir of her son, in her contemplation at all. On these grounds, it appears quite impossible that it can operate either as a conveyance or as a contract to convey her subsequently-acquired interest.

Well, now, is she in any way estopped? It is very difficult to see how she can possibly be estopped. There has been a difference of opinion among the learned Judges in the Court below as to the construction of this instrument, whether it ought to be construed solely as relating to her rights as guardian, and to convey them, and not to relate to the property at all? The language certainly, in some parts of it, does appear to refer very strongly to an interest as owner, and probably it may be that the meaning of the instrument rather refers to her supposed interest as owner; but it appears to their Lordships hardly necessary conclusively to decide upon the proper construction of this instrument, because, even assuming that it does refer to her interest as owner, that is to say, to her present interest as owner, and that she is assuming incorrectly that she has some interest as heir of her husband, their Lordships are of opinion that her stating that, and professing to resign that in favor of Oodey Koowur, could not possibly, in point of law, estop or prevent her from setting up her real right as heir of her son, when that right actually accrued. There is, in the first place, no consideration whatever for this conveyance of her particular interest; even if she had it, she received nothing for it. Neither does Oodey Koowur act on any representation made by her, or alter her position in any way. There is no misrepresentation to Oodey Koowur of any sort or kind. Oodey Koowur was acquainted with the actual facts of the case, just as much as Mussamut Ladoo was. The real effect of the petition seems rather to be that they mutually agreed to represent what was not the fact, for the purpose of enabling a certain suit to be carried on. Their Lordships are of opinion that, assuming she did intend to convey a present interest in the properties, which she supposed or assumed she had, there is no principle of law or justice by which that can prevent her from setting up her real right when that right has accrued. It is true that this petition had the desired effect, and that Mussamut Oodey was allowed to carry on the suit, and afterwards when Shib Lall died, and Mussamut Ladoo immediately proceeded to present petitions to be allowed to carry on the suit instead of her, the Court, as their Lordships are disposed to think, improperly prevented her

from carrying on the redemption-suit, would not grant that petition, and allowed the redemption-suit to go on in the name of Mussamut Oodey, who had begun it, but that mistake cannot, as their Lordships think, possibly deprive her now of the right to which she is in law entitled, though it accounts for the judgment of the Judge in the first instance, who properly considered that it was no business of his to overrule or to differ from the judgment of the superior Court.

On these grounds their Lordships are of opinion that this petition cannot possibly operate either as a conveyance, or as a contract to convey, nor by way of estoppel, so as to deprive the plaintiff of her right to recover all these properties, and their Lordships entirely agree in the judgment of Sir Walter Morgan, which was practically to the same effect. Their Lordships, therefore, will advise Her Majesty that this appeal ought to be dismissed, and the judgment of the Supreme Court of Agra ought to be confirmed with costs.

The 12th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Robert Phillimore, and Sir Joseph Napier.

Appeal to Privy Council—Guardian—Costs.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Ranee Bistoopria Putmadaye

versus

Nund Dhul and others.

The guardian of an infant, who filed an appeal to the Privy Council, has no right to insist that the appeal should go on when the infant, on coming of age, applies to withdraw from the appeal. If the guardian has incurred costs, he may have a claim to be recouped from the estate of the infant, if he has any.

In this case we understand that the lady represented by Mr. Bell, as guardian of an infant who was represented to have been duly adopted as the son of her late husband, instituted a suit to recover certain property from the respondent, who was in possession, under a claim that the infant was the son and legal heir of the deceased. The suit was heard by two Courts. It is unnecessary for us, upon this application, to consider further whether the decision both passed against the title of the infant was right or wrong. We will assume that she may have had legitimate ground for applying in the Court below for leave to appeal to this Board.

That leave was granted in 1866, when the boy was still admittedly an infant. So far the proceedings seem to have been entirely regular. The transcript came home in 1867. The record was printed here, and the only thing which can be suggested as any irregularity may have been the lodging of the petition of appeal so late as 1870, after the infant had come of age, and was, for all purposes, *dominus litis*.

It appears that the proceedings which are embodied in the supplementary record have taken place in India, and the effect of them is to show that, upon being called into that Court, the infant expressed his desire to abandon the appeal, and that the Court ultimately felt that it could not decide that question, and, the appeal having been transmitted here, sent the whole of the proceedings for the adjudication of their Lordships.

In that state of things the respondent applies that the appeal may be dismissed, and the application is resisted by the lady who was originally the guardian of the infant.

At one time it appeared to their Lordships that it might possibly be necessary to ascertain more clearly that the son is a consenting party to this application, which could only be done by directing the Court in India to take further proceedings, in order to have the fact ascertained. But looking to these proceedings, and considering what the Court has done, it appears to their Lordships unnecessary to take that step, and to put the parties to the further delay and expense which it would involve. When the suggestions were made to Mr. Leith, their Lordships had not sufficiently adverted to the terms of the Mookhtearnama. We knew that the boy had made a clear admission to the Moonsiff, which had satisfied the Judge and the High Court, that he was of age, and that he had executed that Mookhtearnama; but it did not, as it appeared to us at that time, follow that he had adopted all the statements in the petition which was presented under the Mookhtearnama. But when you come to look at the Mookhtearnama, of which he has admitted the execution, it seems very clear that he knew what he was about, and what his Mookhtear would do under that instrument.

* From the judgment of Steer and F. Jackson, JJ., passed in Regular Appeal No. 237 of 1864, decided on 16th March 1865—2 W. R., Civil, p. 232.

He says: "Now I have attained majority, "and considering that no other profit will "arise by carrying on the said case than a "useless expenditure of money, and with the "desire of withdrawing from the said case, "I do appoint Jugmohun Doss Putto Naik, "inhabitant of Saooda Khotee of Pergunnah "Mayahagun in Zillah Midnapore, as Mookh-"tear in my behalf, in order to engage a "Pleader of the High Court, and agree that "the Pleader of the High Court, in Calcutta, "who will be appointed by the said Mookh-"tear, will file a petition of withdrawal from "the said case, and the said withdrawal will "be one as if filed by me, and completely "valid."

Therefore, it seems to their Lordships that they have sufficient evidence before them in these proceedings that the young man is a consenting party to this application.

The question, then, is reduced to this—whether the lady, who is represented by Mr. Bell, has really such an interest in the appeal or such a *locus standi* in this Court as entitles her to resist this application, and to insist that the appeal shall go on, although the party in whose name it is brought wishes to withdraw from it.

Their Lordships are of opinion that she has not. If she has incurred costs, there can be no appeal for mere costs; having incurred costs on behalf of the infant in this suit, she may have a claim to be recouped from his estate, if he has any; but that does not entitle her to prosecute this appeal in his name against his will, with probably but faint chances of success.

It was thrown out that the decree had had not dealt with the title of the defendant, and that she might have a preferable title to him; but the obvious answer to that argument is this—there has been a clear adjudication that the nominal plaintiff in this suit had no title. If the lady herself, as widow, has a better title, that title cannot be litigated in this suit, but must be litigated in an independent suit, in which, rejecting the adoption, she would come forward as the next heir of the deceased.

Therefore, we do not see that we should be justified in keeping this appeal upon our records. But considering the peculiar nature of the application and the position of the parties, it does not seem to us that we can do anything but dismiss the appeal *simpliciter*, saying nothing about costs. There is no proof that the infant has undertaken to pay the costs; and we also think that we ought not to give to either side the costs of this petition.

The 16th December 1870.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Robert Phillimore, and Sir Joseph Napier.

Alluvial lands—Local investigation —Ameen—Appellate Court.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Ranee Surut Soonduree Dossee

versus

Baboo Prosunno Coomar Tagore.

Reverses, on a consideration of the facts, the judgment of the High Court which set aside a decision of the Lower Court, as to the position of certain chur lands in the Brahmapootra, when the decision of the Lower Court was founded on a long and careful local investigation which was conducted by an Ameen who visited the spot, and whose integrity was unimpeached.

An Appellate Court in India ought not to interfere with the result of a local inquiry except upon clearly defined and sufficient grounds, which must be expressed in its judgment.

THE appellant and respondents in this case are the representatives of two zemindars, who, some six-and-thirty years ago, engaged in litigation concerning the title to certain chur land thrown up by the River Brahmapootra.

This litigation was begun by a suit, brought in 1834, by Prosunno Coomar Tagore, whom it will be convenient to describe as the respondent, for the recovery of 5,000 beegahs of the land in question. In the course of that suit, and in the year 1835, a map of the land in dispute, with the land and water immediately surrounding it, was made by an Ameen, named Gouree Persaud Moitro, under the authority of the Court; and in that map the different churs are delineated and marked with different numbers from 1 to 7, inclusive.

This first suit was successful, and Prosunno Coomar Tagore obtained a decree for about 5,000 beegahs of chur land. In 1845 he brought a second suit for 14,000 beegahs of like land, and obtained a decree from the Court of first instance. The defendants then appealed; and pending their appeal, and in July 1849, the parties came to a compromise, which was embodied in a decree of

* From the judgment of Kemp and Seton-Karr, JJ., in Miscellaneous Regular Appeal No. 505 of 1861, decided 9th April 1863—not reported.

the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, dated the 3rd of July 1849, and was thereby directed to be carried into effect.

This compromise is set out at page 17 of the record. Its effect was that the churs marked in Gouree Persaud's map as Nos. 5 and 7 with 1,663 beegahs and 15 cottahs of chur No. 6 were to belong to those who are represented by the appellant; and that the churs Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, with the rest of chur No. 6, were to belong to the respondent. The boundaries, if the parties differed about them, were to be settled by arbitration, and, if the parties could not agree to appoint arbitrators, were to be fixed through the Court Ameen in execution of the decree.

If, then, this map, which was the basis of the compromise, had correctly described the land as it then existed, nothing remained to be done but to measure off the 1,663 and odd beegahs from chur No. 6, and to put the parties into possession of their respective shares.

Unfortunately, the land which was the subject of the compromise was in some sort the creation of the River Brahmapootra, which is said after each annual flood to be apt to shift its course, and to effect considerable changes in the alluvial deposits on either side of its channel. And thus it came to pass that, as soon as the parties proceeded to carry out the compromise, a contest arose whether, either between 1835 and 1849 or at some subsequent period, the river had not so changed its course as materially to alter the configuration of some of the seven churs and their bearings to its main stream. The only effect, therefore, of the compromise was to convert a dispute touching the title to lands into one touching the identification of parcel; the principal question being, not how chur No. 6 was to be divided, but where churs Nos. 5 and 7, which unquestionably belonged to the appellant's zemindary, were to be found; and this dispute has given rise to the intermittent litigation which, after lasting for more than fifteen years, was, in 1863, closed by the decree now under appeal.

The following is a short summary of that litigation: Some time after 1849 and before April 1853, the respondent was put into possession of a considerable part, if not of the whole, of so much of the land contained in the seven churs as then lay on the western side of the Brahmapootra; and the possession so taken was confirmed by an order of the then Principal Sudder Ameen of Rungpore, dated the 19th of April 1853. But that order was, on the appeal of the other party, set aside by Mr. Dunbar, one of the Judges of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, whose order of the 24th of September 1853 directed the Principal Sudder Ameen to reopen the inquiry, but apparently did not disturb the possession already given to the respondent. Some delay in giving effect to this order took place in consequence of the respondent's having contrived to strike the execution-case off the file; but it was restored under an order of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, dated the 14th February 1855.

The case was then investigated by the Principal Sudder Ameen; each party filed a map before him; he himself held a local investigation, and made or caused to be made the map of 1855; and finally, on the 27th of June 1856, passed an order overruling the objections made to the record of his investigation by the respondent in the petition set forth at page 5 of the record, declaring the possession given to the respondent to be null and void, and directing that possession should be given to the parties in accordance, as their Lordships understood the order, with the present contention of the appellants. No change, however, seems ever actually to have been made in the possession of the land, of which possession was given by the Moonsiff. The respondent appealed against the last-mentioned order, and the question was again re-opened by Mr. Torrens's order of the 30th of January 1857, which remitted the case to the Principal Sudder Ameen with directions that, in respect of those parcels which he had given to the then respondent (the present appellant), he should again allow execution of the decree, and after that prepare a map (better than the present map), so that it might clearly appear for the perusal of the Appellate Court, and in other respects, what was the former and present course of the River Brahmapootra over the disputed lands, as stated in the map of Gouree Persaud Ameen.

The execution of this order was somewhat delayed by the rainy season, during which a local investigation was impossible; but, on the 2nd of December 1857, the Principal Sudder Ameen passed an order for the appointment of an Ameen acquainted with measurement by the compass. From one cause or another, however, nothing effectual was done under this last order until December 1860, when Kalidass Moitro, the Ameen, proceeded to the spot, made a careful local investigation, prepared the map which bears his name, and on the 13th of April 1861 filed the elaborate report which is at page 35 of the record. That report, though it did not precisely adopt the

representations of either party, in the main supported the contentions of the appellant. It was adopted by the Principal Sudder Ameen, who, on the 1st of August 1861, passed a decree, finding that churs Nos. 5 and 7 were where the appellant placed them, and not where the respondent placed them, directing that possession should be given accordingly, and also giving the necessary directions for ascertaining and making over that part of chur No. 6 (as to the position of which there seems to be no controversy) which, under the compromise, belonged to the appellant.

The respondent appealed against this decree. The High Court reversed it, finding that churs Nos. 5 and 7 were where the respondent placed them, and varying the Principal Sudder Ameen's decree accordingly. The present appeal is against that decree, and the first question for their Lordships' determination is whether it can be supported. It rests entirely upon the assumption that churs Nos. 5 and 7, which unquestionably were on the west of the main stream of the Brahmapootra when the map of Gouree Persaud was made in 1835, are now, by reason of the altered course of that river, on the eastern side of it. If that is not made out, the reasons assigned for the judgment wholly fail.

Upon what does this assumption purport to be founded? "On an examination of the "maps filed in the cause, and on the explanations and arguments of the pleaders on "both sides." What the latter may have been, their Lordships are unable to say. But having given full consideration to the able argument of Mr. Doyne on behalf of the respondent, and having carefully examined the maps, they are unable to see any satisfactory ground for coming to the conclusion contrary to the finding of those who have investigated the question on the spot; that the river has, since 1835, by making for itself a new channel to the west of its former channel, so changed its course as to put either of the churs described by Gouree Persaud as Nos. 5 and 7, or whatever may remain of either of them, its eastern instead of its western bank.

It would be strange, indeed, if this conclusion necessarily resulted from a mere comparison of the maps, since it is opposed to the expressed convictions of the Ameen Kalidass Moitro, who made the last and most scientific of the maps, and to that of the Principal Sudder Ameen, who conducted the local investigation and made the map of 1855. Mr. Doyne, indeed, has argued that the conclusion of the High Court may have been an inference, and would have been a legitimate inference, from the application of what he treats as the known law of the formation of churs to certain newly-formed chur land appearing in parts of Kalidass Moitro's map. But the High Court has not assigned this as one of the grounds of its judgment. Nor are their Lordships, considering the disturbing forces which may exist in a river of so vast a volume and of such irregular action as the Brahmapootra, and also the positions of the several portions of chur land indicated in the map, by any means satisfied that the inference is legitimate or so certain that it ought to outweigh the positive findings of the Ameen.

Again, the High Court observed that the Principal Sudder Ameen had not, in their opinion, duly considered the landmarks by which in both maps, when duly compared, the situation of churs 5 and 7 may be satisfactorily identified. The Court has omitted to state specifically to what landmarks it refers as instances of this omission. The instance most pressed in argument has been that of the tamarind trees appearing on the east side of the river in Gunga Persaud's map. But the real position of those trees, if they still exist, was also the subject of controversy; and after investigations on the spot, the Ameen rejected the respondent's theory concerning it. There is nothing to show that he was wrong in this. It is obviously impossible to draw that conclusion from Gunga Persaud's map, which, it is admitted, was not made by compass or according to scale.

Another point made in the argument, though not adverted to in the judgment, is the bearing of the village of Kompopoor to the land alleged by either party to be chur No. 5. It cannot be said that the Ameen has neglected to consider this landmark. And his explanation of the discrepancy in this respect between his map and that of Gunga Persaud, *viz.*, that the village, of which the position is loosely indicated, is erroneously placed on the latter to the south instead of to the east of the river Jhelye, appears to their Lordships to be plausible.

Their Lordships then are unable to see any satisfactory grounds for the assumption which is the foundation of the judgment of the High Court. They would themselves be very slow to interfere with the judgment of an Indian Court upon a question of this nature. But they have to deal here with conflicting judgments, of which one is founded on a long and careful local investigation; and the other

overruling the former, is supported by no reasons that their Lordships can pronounce to be satisfactory. And their Lordships may observe that the considerations which make them reluctant to set their judgment against that of an Indian Court upon such a question as this ought to influence in some degree the Appellate Court in India, and to prevent its interference with the result of a local inquiry, except upon clearly defined and sufficient grounds. Such grounds the Appellate Court may have thought it had in this case, but it has failed to express them. Against its judgment their Lordships have now to weigh the elaborate report of the Ameen and the judgment founded upon it. The integrity of the Ameen is unquestioned; his careful and laborious execution of his task is proved by his report; he has not blindly adopted the assertions of either party; and without going minutely into details, their Lordships think it sufficient to say that they see no ground for impugning the accuracy of his conclusion upon what they conceive to be the broad and cardinal issue upon which the determination of this case depends, *viz.*, whether the lands which represent churs Nos. 5 and 7 of Gunga Persaud's map are now on the east or still on the west of the main channel of the Brahmapootra. On the contrary, they believe the conclusion of the Ameen to be correct. And they are fortified in that conviction by the following considerations:—

It is to be observed that this controversy was by no means of recent date. The question was not whether the change alleged had been effected by the action of the river between 1835 and 1863. It appears by the respondent's petition at page 5 of the record and the maps that his contention was certainly as early as 1855, and possibly as early as the Moonsiff's proceeding, that the lands which represent the churs Nos. 5 and 7 of the compromise were then on the eastern side of the main course of the river. That this was, in fact, the case in 1849, is in the highest degree improbable. Though it is too clear that the parties, by a compromise made upon loose data, merely shifted the ground of contention, instead of determining their disputes, it is almost inconceivable that they should have drawn and executed, as they did, the instruments of compromise upon the footing of Gunga Persaud's map, without adverting to so great a change in the position of the churs relatively to the main channel of the river, if such a change had then taken place. The change, then, if it ever really took place, must have taken place between 1849 and the Moonsiff's proceeding, or the year 1855; and in that case it might easily have been proved. It would then have been recent and notorious, yet in 1855 the Principal Sudder Ameen, after local investigation, decided against the respondent.

Again their Lordships, upon the evidence, see no reason to doubt that the land which the respondent treats as chur No. 5 is, in fact, the Pookamaree Chur, and an accretion on an estate which never belonged to the appellant's family, and now belongs to Government—an estate of which the Moonshee Chur, one of the landmarks of the map of 1835, formed part. There is nothing which induces their Lordships to believe that any of those whom the appellant represents were ever in possession of that chur. Yet the High Court, without adverting to this point, affirmed it to be the chur No. 5 of the compromise, and directed that the respondent should be maintained in the possession of it.

Upon the whole, then, their Lordships have come to the conclusion that it is their duty to advise Her Majesty to allow this appeal; to reverse the decree of the High Court; to direct that, in lieu thereof, the appeal to that Court from the decree of the Principal Sudder Ameen be dismissed, and the last-mentioned decree affirmed with costs. The appellant must also have her costs of this appeal.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

Lord Cairns, Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Practice—Evidence.

Lalljee Tahoo and others

versus

The Collector of Tirhoot.*

The concurrent judgments of two Lower Courts as to the weight to be attributed to evidence will not be interfered with unless there has been some violation of the ordinary principles upon which causes ought to be tried.

* From the judgment of Morgan and Pundit, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 437 of 1863, decided 21st April 1864—not reported.

THEIR Lordships are clearly of opinion that there was no compromise concluded here in such a way as to prevent the character and particulars of the claim being re-considered upon the petition to review. On the contrary, provision was made in the original order to keep alive the right of either party, if dissatisfied, to have a petition of review. We then find that, upon that petition of review, the Court of first instance was entirely dissatisfied with the evidence in support of the plaintiffs' claim. We find that the Court of appeal, there being no ground of appeal on the question of rejection or reception of evidence, arrived at the same conclusion. They considered that the evidence was of a suspicious and unsatisfactory nature, and it would be quite impossible for this tribunal upon a question of fact of this kind, and where the controversy is as to the weight to be attributed to evidence, to differ from the decision of the two Courts below, unless their Lordships found that there had been some violation of the ordinary principles upon which causes ought to be tried. We do not find that there was any miscarriage of that kind in this case, and therefore we must humbly advise Her Majesty that this appeal should be dismissed with costs.

The 19th January 1871.

Present:

Lord Cairns, Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Limitation—Joint Family—Mortgage—Redemption—Sections 5 and 13, Act XIV. of 1859.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Radhanath Doss and others

versus

Gisborne and Company.

Section 13 of Act XIV. of 1859 deals with suits between one or some member or members of a joint family, and some other member of the joint family complaining of an ouster of some members by others, or of a failure by the member in occupation to account for profits, or to pay maintenance where it is due. That Section does not apply to a suit in which one member representing the rest of the members sues to redeem a mortgage in which the title of the plaintiff to redeem is questioned, and the question of joint or not joint property has only to be decided incidentally for the purpose of establishing that title as against strangers.

Before a person can obtain the benefit of Section 13 of Act XIV. of 1859, he must clearly and distinctly show that he fills the position of the person contemplated by that Section as a person who ought to be protected, and he must show three things: first, that he is a purchaser according to the proper meaning of that term; second, that he is a purchaser *bonâ fide*; and third, that he is a purchaser for valuable consideration. Meaning of the term purchaser in this Section defined.

THE claim in this case, which led to the decision which is under appeal, was a claim in substance for the recovery of property at present in the possession of the respondents, Messrs. Gisborne and Company. The recovery of that property was sought by the appellants on the footing that it had been made the subject of a conditional sale in the year 1828; and that they, the appellants, had now the right to redeem the property—the amount for which the property had been conditionally sold or mortgaged having been paid off by the receipt of profits. This mortgage, made in the year 1828, was made by a person of the name of Kunhya Lall as mortgagor, to one Russick Lall as mortgagee. The appellants say that Kunhya Lall was the member of a joint family, of a family joint as regards this property, and that they, the appellants, were the other members of that joint family, and that the mortgage was made either with their previous approbation or their subsequent assent. Russick Lall, beyond doubt, was the native agent of the firm of Shawe and Hawes, and the mortgage, beyond doubt, was made to Russick Lall, because, as the law stood at that time, Englishmen could not have held immoveable property in this part of India in their own name. That law having subsequently been altered, Russick Lall assigned over to his principals, Shawe and Hawes, the property which he thus held for them in mortgage. Subsequently Shawe relinquished his share to Hawes, and finally, by a deed executed in the year 1841, the details of which will afterwards have to be referred to, Hawes passed over or conveyed the property to the present respondents, Messrs. Gisborne and Company.

Now, the first question which arises in this state of things is as to the right of the plaintiffs to redeem this property? Their possession as members of a joint family is denied by the respondents, who contend that there is no evidence that the family was joint, or that this property belonged originally to any person other than Kunhya Lall, the mortgagee. Upon that question Mr. Maddocks, the District

* From the judgment of Norman and Campbell, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 400 of 1865, decided 15th May 1866—5 W. R., p. 253.

udge, before whom the case first came, has delivered a very elaborate and careful judgment, in which he has come to the conclusion that the joint ownership of the property was made out in favor of the appellants, and, although it was not necessary for the High Court of Calcutta, in the view they took of another part of the case, absolutely to decide this question, they do not appear to have disapproved of the conclusion on this point at which Mr. Maddocks had arrived. The evidence having been so fully and satisfactorily commented upon by Mr. Maddocks, their Lordships do not think it necessary to say more than this, that looking to the form of the Government settlement of this property, looking to the history of the family which is in evidence, looking to the accounts going down to the year before the date of the mortgage, showing the dealings of the family between themselves, looking to the ekrarnamah executed between Kunhya Lall and the other members of the family almost contemporaneously with the mortgage of 1828, looking to the dealings with the mouzah Ugda which was excepted out of the mortgage of 1828, although forming part of the whole estate, their Lordships are satisfied that this property was the joint property of the family, and that Kunhya Lall was mortgaging it with the assent of, and as the manager for, the whole family.

Their Lordships would add to the general description of the evidence, which has satisfied them of this, a reference also to the statements which were made very shortly after the conveyance of 1841 to Messrs. Gisborne and Company. In 1843 a suit was brought by the present appellants, or some of them, against Messrs. Gisborne and Company, making parties also Russick Lall and Kunhya Lall. The plaintiffs in that suit were nonsuited upon technical grounds, but in that suit the plaintiffs had stated their title substantially in the same way that it is now stated, and in the answers to that suit their Lordships find that Mr. Barnes, a member of the firm of Gisborne and Company, and the other members of the firm of Gisborne and Company, stated that the plaintiff's suit was totally false, and that the reasons of the falsity of the plaintiffs' suit were stated in the answer of Russick Lall, another defendant, and that that answer was sufficient. They, therefore, referred their case to the answer of Russick Lall, and were content to adopt it as the statement of their case. Now, Russick Lall, as has been said, was the native agent of this indigo-factory at the time of the mortgage in 1828. He must have known perfectly well everything connected with the title and the circumstances of the family, one member of which was making a mortgage to him; and what Russick Lall, having these means of peculiar knowledge, said in the year 1843 was this: "Oh! Administer of Justice, "let your presence consider the fact that, al-"though the plaintiffs have no right and in-"terest in the said mouzahs, yet even it is "clearly evident from the contents of the "former plaint that the plaintiffs themselves "have admitted that the said Kunhya Lall "Doss, by the advice and with the concur-"rence of the plaintiffs, sold the property in "dispute to me"—that, of course, means mortgage—"for the sum of Rupees 17,011, "with the object of liquidating the money "due to the said gentleman from Kunhya Lall "Doss, under the deed of mortgage dated "the 25th May 1826." Russick Lall was, therefore, content to affirm at this time, and Messrs. Gisborne and Company were content to adopt his statement, that Kunhya Lall had mortgaged the property by the advice and with the concurrence of the plaintiffs—advice and concurrence which would have been utterly useless and unmeaning unless the plaintiffs had been joint owners of the property.

Their Lordships, therefore, on this part of the case, have no hesitation in accepting the conclusion of the Court of first instance, and they have the satisfaction of thinking that in that respect they are not differing from the opinion of the High Court of Calcutta, although it was not absolutely necessary for that Court to decide the question.

The next objection which was taken to the title of the plaintiffs to redeem is this. It is said that the conditional sale having been made in the year 1828, and the condition of that sale being for liquidation of the amount of mortgage-money in eleven years; a year afterwards, in November 1829, the ekrarnamah which contained the conditions making the transaction a mortgage was returned by Kunhya Lall to Russick Lall with an endorsement which is set out at page 235 of the record. The endorsement is partly defaced, but it runs thus: "(Defaced) the said mehal, "according to the conditions of the ekrar "(defaced), the Government revenue, and in-"terest, and the consideration being (defaced): "therefore I have returned this ekrarnamah "to Russick Lall Doss, the purchaser. The "mouzahs stated in the ekrarnamah I have "absolutely sold. Dated the 27th Kartick "1237. Kunhya Lal Doss, Zemindar." It is said that the meaning of this endorsement, which was partly defaced, is that it amounted to an assertion that the profits of the zemin-

dary were insufficient to pay the principal and interest and the Government revenue, and that, therefore, the ekrarnamah was returned by Kunhya Lall to Russick Lall.

Now, without going further, their Lordships are compelled to say that is a transaction which, upon the face of it, is almost incredible. The property was mortgaged by a usufructuary mortgage, to run over eleven years. The mortgagee was bound, on the face of the deed, to pay the Government duty. The mortgage created no personal liability with regard to the payment of the debt. If the debt should be paid in the course of eleven years, the land would be free; if not paid, at all events, the mortgagor would be in no worse condition than he was at the end of the first year. There is no consideration moving to the mortgagor for the release of the equity of redemption. It is said that the district in which the property was situate was a district which, as regards its produce, was liable to the uncertainties of dry seasons; but although that might lead to a diminution of the produce in one year, on the other hand, the absence of drought and the presence of moisture in another season might lead to a more plentiful crop, and the uncertainty is one which might have a double bearing as regards the ultimate result of the conditional sale.

But it is further to be observed that this allegation of the return of the ekrarnamah, and the production of it with the endorsement, was never heard of until about two years subsequently, when one Bholanath, having sued Kunhya Lall upon a debt of his own due to Bholanath, was taking proceedings to sell this property, or to sell the equity of redemption of it, as being the property of Kunhya Lall. Then it was that the return of the ekrarnamah was set up, and that this endorsement was produced. The moment that defence was set up it was challenged—challenged not merely by Bholanath, but by the other members of the joint family—and steps were taken to dispute it. It is true that from circumstances connected with the attempted sale of Bholanath going off, the question was not ultimately decided at that time, which is very much to be regretted. The primary Judge decided against the transaction—decided that it was not a real transaction, but a fraudulent one to defeat the creditor. There was an appeal to the appellate tribunal. The appellate tribunal thought that an investigation of the circumstances should take place, and sent it back for that purpose. The biddings at the sale not having been sufficient to lead to a sale taking place, the primary Judge thought that it was unnecessary to pursue that investigation. But, both at that time and at every time since, when the return of the ekrarnamah has been set up, the transaction has been challenged as an unreal and fictitious transaction.

Their Lordships are of opinion that it is an incredible transaction on the face of it, and they cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that it was a transaction between Russick Lall and Kunhya Lall, for the purpose of defeating the proceedings of the creditor, Bholanath.

Their Lordships must add this further observation: the mortgage or conditional sale of 1828 is clear and undisputed. It lies upon those who desire to set up any title putting an end to the mortgage to establish their case by evidence which is clear and satisfactory. That onus certainly is not discharged in this case; and their Lordships, therefore, are of opinion that on this point also the title of the appellants is made out, and that, unless on some other ground yet to be considered, they are precluded from redeeming, they are not precluded by the pretended return of the ekrarnamah. Upon this point also their Lordships, in substance, agree with the view of all the Judges in the Court in India.

We come now to the remaining part of the case, which is this. Assuming the title of the plaintiffs to redeem to be made out, the respondents, Messrs. Gisborne and Company, claim the benefit of the statutes of limitation, and assert that the time during which the title of the plaintiffs to redeem could be in force has elapsed. In the first place, they say that the appellants are barred by the 13th Section of the Law of Limitations, that is to say, the Section which speaks of suits for enforcing the right to share in any property, moveable or immoveable, on the ground that it is joint-family property. It is not necessary to repeat that Section at length, for their Lordships are of opinion that it is a Section which deals with suits between one or some member or members of the joint family and some other member of the joint family, complaining of what we should term in this country an ouster of some members by others, or of a failure by the member in occupation to account for profits, or to pay maintenance where it is due. The present case is a case by no means of that description. In the present case the foundation of the title of the plaintiffs is a mortgage, which, as has been already said, was, in its inception,

substance, the mortgage of the whole of the joint family. The circumstance that it not the whole of the members of the joint family, but only some who now come to recover their share of the property, does not make this a dispute in any way between members of the joint family as to the question of whether the property is joint or not. It is merely a question of the title of the plaintiffs to redeem, and the question of joint or not joint property has only to be decided incidentally for the purpose of establishing that title against strangers.

The respondents then allege that they are entitled to the benefit of the 5th Section of the same law: "In suits for the recovery from the purchaser, or any person claiming under him, of any property purchased *bonâ fide* and for valuable consideration from a trustee, depository, pawnee, or mortgagee, the cause of action shall be deemed to have arisen at the date of the purchase." Now, questions of very considerable importance have been raised and argued as to the meaning of this Section. Their Lordships desire to say that the provision of the Section is founded, no doubt, upon considerations of high policy—of a policy which their Lordships do not at all doubt is one which is extremely beneficial to India, having regard to the circumstances of that country. But their Lordships cannot fail to observe that the provisions of the Section are of an extremely stringent kind. They take away and cut down the title, which, *ex hypothesi*, is a good title of a *cestui que trust* or of a person who has deposited, pawned, or mortgaged property; they cut down that title as regards the number of years that the person would have had right to assert it: from a very great length of time, sixty years, they cut it down to twelve years. It is, therefore, only proper that any person claiming the benefit of this Section should clearly and distinctly show that he fills the position of the person contemplated by this Section, as a person who ought to be protected. Their Lordships think that, in order to claim the benefit of this Section, a defendant must show three things: first, that he is a purchaser according to the proper meaning of that term; second, that he is a purchaser *bonâ fide;* and, third, that he is a purchaser for valuable consideration.

Now, what is the meaning of the term "purchaser" in this Section? It cannot be a person who purchases a mortgage as a mortgage, because that would be merely equivalent to an assignment of a mortgage; it would be the case of a person taking a mortgage with a clear and distinct understanding that it was nothing more than a mortgage. It, therefore, must mean, in their Lordships' opinion, some person who purchases that which, *de facto*, is a mortgage, upon a representation made to him, and in the full belief, that it is not a mortgage but an absolute title.

Now, it is important in this case to consider how it is that, in pleading in the first instance, the transaction which here has taken place, the respondents have put their title. In page 14 of the record, in the sixth head of their statement, they express themselves thus: "The defendants, as purchasers for "a just consideration, have all along held "adverse possession of the disputed property "for more than 12 years without notice of "any legal right as co-partners, *i. e*, if any "right had existed, pertaining to the plaint-"iffs, as well as to those persons from whom "the defendants have acquired their right. "Thus, in such a case, also, the plaintiffs' "claim is, by reason of limitation, inadmis-"sible." There is no averment there of any fact; it is a statement that, as purchasers, they are entitled to the benefit of the Statute, but when they come to their averment of facts, their statement is this: the second head is, "On the 16th May 1838, A. D., Russick Lall "Doss sold the said mouzahs to Messrs. "William Shawe and William Hawes for "Rs. 17,011, and caused the names of the "Messrs. William Shawe and William Hawes "to be entered in the Government records "on the excision of his own name, and Mr. "William Shawe sold his share to Mr. "William Hawes, who, after that, sold it to "Messrs. Gisborne and Company and Mr. C. "H. Barnes, and Mr. C. H. Barnes sold his "4-annas share to Messrs. Gisborne and Com-"pany, and mutation of names took place." This is a statement which puts the title of Gisborne and Company exactly in the same position as the title of Shawe and Hawes. It alleges that Russick Lall sold to Shawe and Hawes, that Shawe and Hawes sold to Hawes, and then Hawes sold to Gisborne and Company. It draws no distinction between the various transfers of the property, but puts them all exactly on the same footing. Now, an allegation or a plea of a purchase for value is perfectly well known and understood, and the averments in that plea are not matters of technicality—they are matters of substance. In pleading a purchase for valuable consideration in this country, the very first averment in the plea is that the person selling either was seised, or alleged that he was seised, for an absolute title, and

then the plea goes on to say that, being so seised, or alleging that he was so seised, he contracted to sell, and did sell and convey that absolute title, asserting it to be such to the purchaser, who paid his money for that which was thus sold. There is not a fragment of an averment in the whole of this pleading of that kind. The pleading is perfectly consistent with the transaction having been nothing more than the purchase, that is to say, the transfer, of that which was a conditional title, or a title by way of mortgage.

We turn then from the pleading to see what is the evidence of the transaction in the case. Now, there is no evidence at all of any negotiation for this purchase, of any specification, or schedule, or inventory of what the property was that was to be included in the general purchase of the factory which was taking place. There is no evidence of any allegation or statement on the part of the vendors which would lead Messrs. Gisborne and Company to believe that this was an absolute title which they held to the property in question. The only evidence that there was a purchaser at all is the production of the purchase-deed to which reference is now made.

The purchase-deed is at page 296. It contains a recital of the manner in which the vendor, the first party to the deed, Hawes had had conveyed to him the various factories which were to be handed over to Gisborne and Company. It then contains this recital of the contract between Hawes and Gisborne and Company, page 297: "And whereas "the said John Dougal, George Dougal, "Charles Jones Richards, Matthew Gisborne, "and John Richards, have contracted and "agreed with the said William Hawes for "the absolute purchase of the said several "indigo-factories or works and premises "hereinafter described, at and for the price "or sum of Company's Rs. 2,10,000; and the "same are intended to be conveyed and as-"sured unto the said John Dougal, George "Dougal, Charles Jones Richards, Matthew "Gisborne, and John Richards, and their "heirs, in the manner hereinafter expressed." It is a contract for the absolute purchase, but the absolute purchase of those premises which are afterwards described in this deed and intended to be conveyed by it. When we turn to what these premises are, we find, first, an enumeration of the Indigo Factory; then this addition: "All lands cultivated and uncul-"tivated to the said several and respective "Indigo Factories or sets of works respec-"tively belonging or in any wise appertain-"ing;" and further on page 299: "And all "the estate, right, title, interest, use, trust, "property, possession, possibility, claim, and "demand whatsoever, both at law and in "equity of them, the said William Hawes, "Robert Molloy, and James Cullen and each "of them in, to, out of, or upon the said "several and respective Indigo Factories or "sets of works, lands, hereditaments, chat-"tels, and premises, and every or any part "or parcel thereof." Now, assume that there was in this commercial house, as a part of their property in trade, a mortgage securing to them the debt which has been mentioned; assume that that was perfectly well known to every person connected with them and to the purchasers. No more fit or apt deed could have been devised than this, for the purpose of conveying a title to that mortgage, as the rightful title upon which the property was to be held by the purchasers. The deed, in other words, is perfectly consistent with its not having been the intention of any person to this transaction to do more than to hand over this along with all the other property which the commercial firm possessed, according to whatever might be the right and true title upon which each portion of the property was held. Their Lordships, therefore, can find in this deed no evidence of an averment on the part of the vendor, or of any belief on the part of the purchaser that the property Moheeanwan was a property which the vendors claimed to hold by what we should call in this country a fee-simple title.

Under these circumstances, their Lordships think that the first requisite in the law of limitation is not made out, and that the respondents here are unable to show, or at all events have not shown, that they are purchasers of this specific property as an absolute property in contradistinction to a mortgage-property upon a contract by the vendor to convey the property to them as an absolute property.

This would be sufficient to decide the case; for, of course, unless the whole of the three requisites exist, the benefit of the statute is not obtained. Their Lordships, however, think it right to go further, and to say that they are not satisfied that, even if this objection did not exist, Messrs. Gisborne and Company are able to show that they are *bonâ-fide* purchasers. It is unnecessary to impute, and their Lordships would not desire to impute, to Messrs. Gisborne and Company any dishonesty whatever in the transaction, or any moral obliquity in their dealings in this matter.

t what their Lordships have to observe is s: Messrs. Gisborne and Company must be garded as dealing in this case upon one of o footings. Either they were aware in e year 1841, when they took this conveyce, of all that had passed between this na- e family and the predecessors in title of sborne and Company, by way of allegation d averment and claim upon the one side and on the other, that is to say, they must her have been aware of all the contents the papers connected with the litigation ich had taken place in previous years; or, not aware of the contents of those papers, ey must, at all events, have been aware of e original conditional sale of 1828, and of e alleged return of the ekrarnamah with its dorsement. It has not been very clear to eir Lordships upon which of these two footgs the Counsel for the respondents would sire Messrs. Gisborne and Company to be alt with. At one time it rather appeared that eir Counsel would wish it to be considered at they knew nothing, or should be taken knowing nothing, but the conditional sale d the alleged return of the ekrarnamah. At nother time their Counsel appeared desirous refer to certain portions, at all events, of the roceedings, which had taken place between e conditional sale and the year 1841. But, ssume that they were not aware of the details that litigation; assume that Messrs. Gisorne and Company knew nothing but what as been called the bare title to the property, he conditional sale, the alleged endorsement pon, and return of, the ekrarnamah, and the ransfer subsequently from Russick Lall to Hawes and Shawe. Their Lordships are of opinion that, looking to the clear and undisputed mortgage in the first instance; looking to the transparent unreality of the transaction connected with the alleged return of the ekrarnamah, the mere production of the endorsement upon that ekrarnamah, as the description of the cause for its return, was amply sufficient to put any persons in the position of Messrs. Gisborne and Company upon an inquiry and consideration as to whether that transaction could be a real transaction, or whether it could be a transaction which could form part of the title of a purchaser. On the other hand, if, as seems to have been rather the opinion of the learned Judges below, and certainly seems much more consistent with all the facts of the case, if it be taken that Messrs. Gisborne and Company were perfectly aware of all the accounts in the factory, and of all the details of the litigation and of all the claims that had been made before with regard to this property, then their Lordships consider that their attention was pointedly and distinctly called to the infirmity of title in this case, and that, with their attention so called, they could not be considered to be *bonâ-fide* purchasers.

Therefore upon both grounds, both upon the ground that they are not purchasers within the meaning of the law, and upon the ground that, if they were purchasers, they are not, in the sense in which the words are used in the law, *bonâ-fide* purchasers, their Lordships think that Messrs. Gisborne and Company are not entitled to the benefit of this statute.

It would, perhaps, be right that their Lordships should advert also to an argument which was adduced, although not very warmly pressed, that under the 10th Section, Messrs. Gisborne and Company might find protection. The 10th Section says: "In suits in which "the cause of action is founded on a fraud, "the cause of action shall be deemed to have "first arisen at the time at which such fraud "shall have been first known by the party "wronged." This, in their Lordships' opinion, is not an action founded upon fraud in that sense. It is an action upon title to recover the possession of property to which the plaintiffs are entitled, which clearly they must recover, unless there be some specific protection given to those now in possession of it by virtue of the other sections of the statute to which reference has been made.

This being the opinion at which their Lordships have arrived, they will humbly recommend to Her Majesty that the decree of the High Court of Calcutta should be reversed, and that, in place of it, an order should be made dismissing the appeal to the High Court, and dismissing it with costs. That would set up again the decree of Mr. Maddocks, the Zillah Judge. Their Lordships are content to allow that decree to stand, and are unwilling to enter upon any criticism of the precise form of it, because no argument has been adduced before their Lordships upon the footing that, supposing the decree in substance to be right, any modification should be made of it in detail. Their Lordships, therefore, will leave that decree to be the decree in the case, and will only further add that the appellants should also have the costs of this appeal.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

Lord Cairns, Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Res judicata—Judgment of the Revenue Court—Redemption.

On Appeal from the High Court at Agra.

Khugowlee Sing and others

versus

Hossein Bux Khan.

The rule laid down by the Judges in the Duchess of Kingston's case on the law of estoppel is not technical or peculiar to the law of England, but is perfectly consistent with the second Section of the Code of Civil Procedure.

The decision of a Revenue Court in a summary suit for arrears of rent brought by A against B and others, in which B set up an ekrarnamah under which he claimed on behalf of himself and others to hold certain land as rent-free, which suit was dismissed by the Revenue Court, who held the ekrarnamah to be valid, is no bar as *res judicata* to a suit for redemption by B against A on his title as mortgagee, in which B set up the same ekrarnamah.

THIS appeal having been heard *ex parte*, their Lordships were desirous, before they determined it, carefully to read and consider the evidence in support of the case of the absent respondents, the plaintiffs in the suit.

The suit was in the nature of a redemption-suit, and was brought to recover from the appellants certain property on the allegation that their title was originally that of mortgagees by way of conditional sale; that the mortgage-debt had been satisfied; and that, accordingly, the plaintiffs were entitled to recover possession of the land with mesne-profits from the date of such satisfaction.

The case of the appellants was that they, or those whom they represent, had been in possession of the lands for upwards of twenty years under two deeds of absolute sale, executed in consideration of Rupees 9,800 on the 12th of March 1843, and confirmed by two decrees of the Civil Court passed on the confession of their vendors, the plaintiffs in the present suit.

The plaintiffs, not denying that this was the ostensible title of the appellants, insist that the true transaction was a mortgage by conditional sale for securing the su Rupees 4,000 with interest, and th was effected by the ekrarnamah of eve with the deeds of sale, which is at p of the records.

It was, therefore, essential to the pla case to establish the validity of this namah.

The Zillah Judge, who tried the ca the first instance, decided that it was genuine instrument, and dismissed the But the High Court of Agra, on appe versed his decision, and decided in fa the plaintiffs upon the ground which Lordships will next consider.

This judgment of the High Court not profess to proceed upon a review general and conflicting evidence giv the cause. It is founded solely upon the sion of the Judge below to give due to the fact that the ekrarnamah had declared to be valid and genuine b Deputy Collector of Futtehpore in pro ings which will be afterwards consi and it treats that finding as *res ju* between the parties.

Those proceedings are referred to o face of the plaint; and their Lordships therefore assume that the point, though made the subject of a formal issue, sufficiently raised on the pleadings.

Their Lordships, however, are of op that the judgment of the High Court ing that of the Zillah Judge cannot be ported on this ground.

In the course of the argument, o their Lordships quoted from the op delivered by the Judges in the Duche Kingston's case the following pas "From the cases relative to judg "being given in evidence in civil "these two deductions seem to follo "generally true: first, that the judg "of a Court of concurrent jurisdi "directly upon the point, is, as a pl "bar, or as evidence, conclusive betwe "same parties upon the same matter "ly in question in another Court; sec "ly, that the judgment of a Court of "clusive jurisdiction, directly upon "point, is, in like manner, conclusive "the same matter, between the same "ties, coming incidentally in question "another Court for a different purp "But neither the judgment of a concur

exclusive jurisdiction is evidence of matter which comes collaterally in stion, though within their jurisdiction, of any matter incidentally cognizable, of any matter to be inferred by argument from the judgment."—I. Smith's ding Cases,' p. 424.

ere is nothing technical or peculiar to aw of England in the rule as so stated. s recognized by the civil law, and it rfectly consistent with the second sec- of the Code of Procedure under which ase was tried, which says :—

e Civil Courts shall not take cognizance ny suit brought on a cause of action h shall have been heard and determined Court of competent jurisdiction in a er suit between the same parties or een parties under whom they claim.

ow, what were the proceedings which is case were assumed to afford evidence avor of the validity of the ekrarnamah h the appellants were not at liberty to ute? They are at pages 6 and 7 of the rd. It appears from them that the ap- ants in March 1863 brought a summary for arrears of rent before the Deputy Col- r against one of the plaintiffs in the pre- suit. They alleged that he was an pier of a small portion of land not ex- ling 37 beegahs, being part of the land in tion, under a pottah and kubooleet. defendant in that summary suit denied case of the plaintiffs (the present appel- s), alleged that the transaction of 1843 a conditional sale, produced the ekrar- ah, and contended that, under a particu- tipulation in it, he and the other vendor mortgagor were entitled to hold 75 gahs rent-free. The appellants then, as , denied the validity of this ekrarna- h. Evidence was taken on both sides; and Collector, holding that the appellants failed to prove their case, and that the endant in the summary suit had proved ekrarnamah, dismissed the claim. On peal to the Zillah Judge, this dismissal s confirmed, but on the ground that the pellants had failed to prove that the de- dant was a cultivator paying rent, and t their claim was barred by limitation. d the Judge remarked that the Deputy llector had made a lengthy inquiry with erence to the papers filed by both parties, hich had no connection with the present aim.

On special appeal to the Sudder Court, the dismissal of the claim was again confirmed, the Court observing that the question whether the plaintiffs (the appellants) were out-and-out purchasers or only conditional purchasers under the deeds of the 12th March 1843 did not arise in the case.

From this statement it appears that the ultimate decision of this claim for rent did not turn upon the validity of the ekrarnamah. But if the judgment of the Collector had been final in the matter before him, his incidental finding that the ekrarnamah was a valid instrument would not be conclusive between the parties in the present litigation. For the question before him was not the issue now raised between the parties, and his decision was not that of a Court competent to adjudicate on a question of title. He had only a special jurisdiction to try summary suits for the recovery of rent.

The *eadem causa petendi*, and the judgment of a Court of competent or concurrent jurisdiction, are both wanting here. Their Lordships, therefore, being of opinion that the decree under appeal cannot be supported on the only ground which the Judges of the High Court have assigned for it, will proceed to consider whether the evidence in the cause, taken as a whole, affords any sufficient reason for disturbing the decree of the Zillah Judge.

It is not denied that, on the 12th of March 1843, the deeds of absolute sale were executed; that, on the 14th of March, they were produced in the Civil Court, where decrees were passed upon them; and that, on the 1st of May 1843, the proceeding for the mutation of names, which is set forth at page 27, took place. The last was not without opposition. One Furzund Hossein Khan put in objections founded on the right of pre-emption under the Mahomedan Law, and on a claim to a small portion of the property sold. The former objection was overruled; but it could only have been made to an absolute sale; and the fact that it was made is an additional proof that the transaction was then treated as, and understood to be, an absolute sale. In the plaint, indeed, it is alleged that the transaction was represented to be an absolute sale, and not what it really was—a mortgage, in order to avoid any claim founded on the right of pre-emption. But this statement appears to their Lordships to be founded on a misconception of the law of pre-emption, and

therefore to afford an argument against the truth of the plaintiffs' case. Three years later, in September 1846, part of the property was seized by a judgment-creditor of the vendors. The appellants came in as objectors, claiming as absolute owners; and their objection prevailed, though the ekrarnamah, according to the plaintiffs' case, had then been registered, and, if a valid document, would have left in them an interest capable of being taken in execution.

The plaintiffs have given no explanation whatever why they consented to the decrees. Although in 1846 there was this execution against them, there is no suggestion that, in 1843, they had any interest for making that which was, in fact, a mortgage appear to be an absolute sale. The probabilities of the case, therefore, resulting from the history of the *res gestæ* are all against the validity of the ekrarnamah.

But what is the direct evidence of the execution of that instrument? The evidence of the two first witnesses, Jhoo Khan and Khadir Bux, who are not subscribing witnesses, appears to their Lordships to be worthless. The evidence of the attesting witnesses who are called is not consistent. Sheadun Putwarry, who from his position might have been a more trustworthy witness, is not called. In addition to the discrepancies and other circumstances tending to cast suspicion on the testimony for the plaintiffs which have been stated by the Zillah Judge, their Lordships have to observe that the document impeached purports to have been executed on the same day as the undisputed deeds of sale; that by several witnesses it is sworn to have been executed at the house of Mahomed Sidiq, the writer of the bills of sale; yet all these witnesses say that they saw no instrument but the ekrarnamah executed. It is difficult to see why, if the ekrarnamah was really executed on the 12th of March 1843, and in the house of the appellants' agent, it was not executed with the deeds of sale and attested by the same witnesses. Again, as the Judge has observed, the witnesses for the plaintiffs fail to prove the payment of the Rupees 4,000, which they allege to have been the consideration for the mortgage; whilst the witnesses for the appellants have proved to the satisfaction of the Judge the payment of the 9,800 rupees, which they allege to have been the consideration for the sale. It lay on the plaintiffs to prove the validity of the instrument on which they rely. The oral evidence was conflicting, and the Zillah Judge came to a clear conclusion that the witnesses for the plaintiffs were not to be believed, and that the witnesses for the appellants were trustworthy. Their Lordships would, for obvious reasons, be slow in any case to overrule the opinion expressed by the Judges in whose presence the testimony was given touching the credibility of native witnesses. In the present case their own conclusion, formed upon a perusal of all evidence in the cause, is substantially in accordance with that of the Zillah Judge. They are of opinion that he was right in holding that the plaintiffs had failed to establish the validity of the ekrarnamah, which was the foundation of their case, and in dismissing their suit. Their Lordships will, accordingly, advise Her Majesty to allow this appeal, to reverse the decree of the High Court, and to direct that, in lieu thereof, a decree be made dismissing the appeal against the decree of the Zillah Judge with costs. If the appellants have paid any costs under the order reversed, these costs must be refunded, and they must also have their costs of the appeal.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

Lord Cairns, Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Document—Stamp.

On Appeal from the High Court at Bombay.

Mantappa Nadgowda

versus

Baswantrao Nadgowda.

The plaintiff sued his elder brother for a share in certain family-property. The defendant raised a question of family-custom, and relied on a certain deed of release which, he said, the plaintiff had given him, but the existence of which the plaintiff denied. That document was not stamped, though on the face of it it was stated that it was to be stamped. No objection was taken on that score to the document before the first and the Lower Appellate Courts, who considered that the document was a genuine document executed by the plaintiff. After its production it had an insufficient stamp of 2 annas put upon it. The High Court, on appeal, left the deed as part of the evidence in the case, but qualified its effect and the extent of its operation by making it a deed of release, releasing so much of that which the plaintiff might otherwise claim as would be covered by the insufficient stamp of 2 annas.

HELD that the High Court might either have refused to admit the document for want of a stamp, or—which would be more correct—it might have required it to be properly stamped and the penalty paid into Court; but the course taken was entirely without precedent, without principle, and without authority.

THE first question raised in this case is as to the existence of a custom in the Nad Gowdki family, by which, on descent, where there was more than one brother, it is alleged that the younger brothers did not, according to the ordinary law, share with the elder in a division of the property, but received maintenance, or an allotment of property in lieu of maintenance, in place of sharing in the whole property. Their Lordships observe in the first place that this custom has not been pleaded by the defendants, and they would, therefore, feel a difficulty in knowing exactly what the precise terms of the custom are which the appellant desires to rely upon. But, further than that, after considering the evidence, their Lordships find no sufficient evidence of any custom of the kind alleged at the bar to have prevailed in the family. They, therefore, think it unnecessary to consider the question raised by the High Court in India, as to whether in this part of India a custom of the kind suggested might or might not be valid. That is a question which would properly arise for determination as soon as it was ascertained that, in point of fact, such a custom had prevailed. Their Lordships, however, find quite sufficient materials upon which to dispose of this case in the dealings that have taken place between the appellant and the respondent.

It appears that there were three brothers, the appellant being the eldest, the respondent the second, and another brother, not a party to this record, who was the third. It appears that, upon the descent of the family-property, the brother who is not a party received an allotment of land in lieu of maintenance, and did not claim to be, and was not, allowed to be a sharer in the property. It appears further that the respondent, on the 17th of October 1852, entered into an engagement, evidenced by a deed of that date, between himself and the appellant, his elder brother, to this effect. The deed is addressed by the respondent to the appellant—"I, Baswantrao, son of Kiddiga-"nappa, resident at Kasba Kelur, executed a "deed of release to the following effect: "As differences arose in the family between "me and you, I live separate, my continu-"ance in the house being impossible. As "it was customary from the time of our an-"cestors for grants for maintenance to be "allowed, I asked for land for the support "and maintenance of my family, and ac-"cordingly you have given me for main-"tenance the land and houses described "below." Then follows a description of the property, and the deed continues—"You "have thus made me a grant of land and a "house. I shall have no connection with "the payment of the debts contracted both "by ancestors and by yourself. Whatever "debts there may be, you will pay or re-"ceive payment. You, as being born in "the elder line, will, in the same manner as "the first-born descendant used to do from "the time of our ancestors, enjoy the Nad "Gowdki Wutton, the Boodihall, and Kada-"paty estate, the Halli Chaorat land, the "Chaorat of this Kusba, the land of Gowd-"ki Wutton, and whatever else may be, "together with the Rasoom [cash allowance "or fees] Bak-bab, and the rights and pri-"vileges [of the hereditary office]. I have "no right to claim them. You will con-"tinue to pay as heretofore the Nad Gowd-"ki, Mahal Joodee, and the Gowdki "Joodee, and enjoy the whole of the Wut-"ton for yourself. You will allow no dis-"pute to be raised about the land and house "now granted to me. I shall enjoy the "said house and land, and live in peace; with "the exception of the two, namely, the "fields and the house, I have no right over "the rest of the Wutnee land and property; "you will not be liable for the payment of "any debts, etc., which I may contract. "As there was no stamp available for the "occasion, I have drawn this upon plain "paper. I promise to get the stamp within "eight days from this date, and write "the deed upon it, and take this paper "back. In case I should fail to procure "the stamp and give the deed written upon "it, I agree to pay all the expenses and "the penalty which may be incurred for "getting this paper stamped. To this "effect I deliver and sign this deed of re-"lease of my own free will and in my sound "mind."

Now, if that is a valid deed, if it is not impeachable on the ground of fraud or any other ground, it appears to their Lordships that here is a clear and distinct contract between the appellant and the respondent, by which the respondent accepts an allotment of specific land, obtains certain benefits by being relieved from the family-debts, and makes stipulations with his brother which are binding and enforceable—which would

be binding and enforceable probably in any case, but are still more so when the transaction is one in the nature of a family-arrangement. It is true that the arrangement is made upon the expression of belief on the part of the respondent that he was acting in accordance with the custom of the family. It is very probable that that belief was founded upon fact, and the existence of that belief on his part does not in any way detract from, but rather adds to, the stringency and the effect of the family-arrangement. It ought to be added that, this deed having been executed on the 17th October 1852, the respondent appears to have entered into possession of the allotted property, to have remained in possession until the year 1861, when the plaint was instituted, without any complaint except that the portion allotted to him by way of maintenance was too small, which complaint again appears to have been met by an increased portion allotted for the purpose of increased maintenance.

Therefore, I repeat, if this be a valid document, and not open to challenge on the ground of fraud or upon any other ground, their Lordships would be slow to fail to give effect to a family-arrangement of the kind thus expressed, followed, as it has been, by enjoyment and possession for a period of ten years.

Well, then, is there any ground for impeaching this document? Now, in the first place, it is to be observed that in the plaint filed by the respondent there is no challenge of this document whatever. It is not sought to set aside the document on the ground that he was misled, that he had not sufficient advice, or that he was ignorant of his rights at the time he executed the release. But when the document was presented as a defence on the part of the appellant, then the respondent challenged it, not upon the ground of fraud or ignorance of his rights, but upon the allegation that the document never had existed at all, and that he never had signed such a document. Upon that issue evidence was entered into on both sides. The two Courts before whom the case was first heard—the Court of first instance and the Court of first appeal—weighing that evidence, considering it very fully and very carefully, disbelieved the evidence of the respondent, and held that the document was, beyond doubt, a genuine document executed by him. The second Court of appeal did not differ from that conclusion arrived at by the first two Courts, but the second Court of appeal made this objection to the document. It appeared that, in the first instance, it had not been stamped at all; indeed, on the face of it, it professed to be a document written on plain paper, the stamp for which was afterwards to be supplied by the respondent. After it was first produced, it appears to have had a stamp of two annas put upon it, and the High Court took notice that that was an insufficient sum to cover the amount of the property at stake. Now, admitting that the stamp was insufficient, which may be assumed, it appears to their Lordships that there were two courses which might have been taken by the High Court. They might have refused to admit the document for want of a stamp. Their Lordships do not say that that would have been a correct course. But it would have been a possible course. They might have refused to admit the document for want of a stamp, or they might, under the Acts and Regulations for that purpose, have required the document to be properly stamped, and the penalty paid into Court for the purposes of revenue. As to rejecting the document *in toto* for want of a stamp, there would have been this serious difficulty—that there does not appear to have been any objection raised to its admission in either of the first two Courts; and it is difficult to see how, that being the case, it would have been a just course to have rejected *in toto* the document in the Court of last appeal. However, the Court of last appeal did not take either of those courses. It did not reject the document. It did not do what obviously would have been the more correct course—require the deed to be stamped, and the penalty to be paid, but it left the deed as part of the evidence in the case, just in the way in which it had been placed among the evidence by the Court of first instance, and it qualified its effect and the extent of its operation by making it a deed of release, releasing so much of that which the plaintiff might otherwise claim as would be covered by the insufficient stamp of two annas. Their Lordships cannot do otherwise than express their surprise at the course thus taken, which appears to their Lordships to be entirely without precedent, without principle, and without authority.

Their Lordships, therefore, find the deed as part of the evidence in the case. They are prepared to say that, being evidence in the case, they think the full and natural weight should be given to it as part of the

vidence in the case; and being of that pinion, they have already said that the eed not being challenged on the ground of raud or on the ground of any ignorance of ight is the expression of a valid family-ontract between the brothers, acted upon y both, and not now to be disturbed.

Their Lordships, therefore, will humbly dvise Her Majesty that this appeal should be llowed, that the decision of the High Court hould be reversed, and the first decision which dismissed the plaint of the respondent be restored, and that the appellant should have his costs of this appeal as well as of the hearing in the Court of second appeal in India.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

Lord Chelmsford, Sir James W. Colvile, Lord Justice Mellish, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Mortgagee—Conditional sale—Redemption—Law of the Forum.

On Appeal from the late Sudder Court at Madras.

Pattabhiramier *versus* Vencata Row Naiken and another.

Under the law of the Madras Presidency, the interest of a mortgagee under a deed of conditional sale becomes absolute, according to the terms of the contract, by the mere failure of the mortgagor to redeem at or before the time specified in the deed.

As regards Bengal, a Full Bench decision of the High Court ruling to the same effect in cases to which Regulation XVII. of 1866 does not apply referred to with approval.

The ruling in the present case not intended to interfere with any rule of property established by judicial decisions, so as to form part of the law of the Forum, wherever such may prevail, or to affect any title founded thereon.

In this case the appellant claims to be the absolute owner of the lands in question under several conveyances from the first and second of his co-defendants in the suit or from those whom they represent. That the title of his vendors or their ancestor was originally a mortgage-title is undisputed; and the suit out of which the appeal has arisen was brought in October 1853 by the representatives of the mortgagor to redeem the property, alleging it to be still redeemable. The decision of the Court of first instance was in their favor, but that was reversed by the Principal Sudder Ameen of Combaconum, who decreed in favor of the appellant. His decree was reversed by the late Sudder Dewanny Adawlut of Madras on special appeal; and the present appeal is against the decree of that Court.

The Sudder Court having no jurisdiction to determine on special appeal any question of fact, and there being no cross-appeal to Her Majesty in Council against the decree of the Principal Sudder Ameen, their Lordships must accept his findings on the facts as conclusive.

Those findings were:—

1st.—That the original contract between the mortgagor and the mortgagee was contained in the deed of conditional sale, dated the 13th June 1808, which is at page 71 of the record, and is there called Exhibit No. I; and that the plaintiffs had failed to establish that there was any other instrument of mortgage.

2nd.—That Exhibit No. 2, purporting to have been executed on the 16th June 1816, upon which the appellant had relied either as a confirmation of the then absolute title of his vendors or as a conveyance or release of the right of redemption to them, was not a genuine document.

3rd.—That certain letters put in by the plaintiffs in order to prove acknowledgments by the mortgagees that the mortgage was a subsisting and redeemable mortgage as late as 1851 were also forgeries.

The conclusion of law which the Principal Sudder Ameen drew from his first finding was that, under Exhibit No. 1, the title of the mortgagees became absolute on the 10th of June 1813, by reason of the failure of the mortgagor to redeem at that date; and the special appeal was admitted to try the correctness of that conclusion. Hence, the sole question for their Lordships' determination is whether, under the law of the Madras Presidency, the interest of a mortgagee under a deed of conditional sale does or does not become absolute, according to the terms of the contract, by the mere

failure of the mortgagor to redeem at or before the time specified in the deed.

This form of security being common in India, the question is of very general importance, and on that ground the appellant obtained Her Majesty's special leave to present this appeal, which, after considerable delay, has, unfortunately, come on to be heard *ex parte*.

The contract embodied in Exhibit No. 1 was that the mortgagee should hold possession of the land for five years paying the Government revenue; that the mortgagor should repay the principal and redeem the land on the 10th of June 1813; and that, in default, the mortgagee and his posterity should enjoy the land as if the transaction were an absolute sale, with the right of alienating the same by gift, sale, &c.

The transaction then was one of mortgage by bye-bil-wufa or kut-kobala usufructuary; the usufruct of the property to be taken in lieu of interest. And the first question that suggests itself is, was there any rule of law to prevent the Court from giving effect to such a contract, according to the intent and meaning of the parties plainly expressed by its language?

That this form of security has long been common in India is notorious. The fact is stated in the preamble to the Bengal Regulation No. 1 of 1798. That such contracts were recognized and enforced according to their letter by the ancient Hindoo law appears from several passages in Colebrooke's Digest (Vol. 1, pp. 183, 187, 188, and 193). That they were equally recognized and enforced between Mahomedans is shown by Mr. Baillie in his introduction to his learned work on the Mahomedan law of sale. If the ancient law of the country has been modified by any later rule having the force of law, that rule must be founded either on positive legislation or on established practice.

Nothing concerning such contracts is, so far as their Lordships are informed, to be found in the Statute Law relating to the Presidency of Madras except Regulation XXXIV. of 1802. The 8th and 9th Sections of that Regulation extended to Madras the provisions of the 10th and 11th Sections of the Bengal Regulation No. XV. of 1793. Both these Regulations were passed with the object of fixing the legal rate of interest and of preventing the taking of interest in excess of it; and both have since been wholly or in great part repealed with other usury laws by Act XXVIII. of 1855. The clauses in question affected only that part of the contract now under consideration which related to the usufruct of the property. As to that they may have made it necessary, contrary to the intention of the parties, to take upon a redemption an account of the rents and profits as between mortgagor and mortgagee in possession, compelling the latter to set what he might have received in excess of legal interest against the principal; but they neither extended the time of redemption nor imposed upon the mortgagee, when the mortgagor had failed to redeem within the stipulated period, the obligation of taking any judicial or other proceeding in order to make his title absolute.

In Bengal there was further legislation. In that Presidency a Regulation (No. XVII. of 1806) was passed, which allowed a mortgagor, who had executed such a security as that now in question, to redeem at any time before the mortgagee had finally foreclosed the mortgage by taking the proceedings which the Regulation made essential to foreclosure.

It is, however, unnecessary to observe that this Bengal Regulation had of itself no force in the Presidency of Madras. And their Lordships cannot find, either in the Madras Regulations or in the Acts of the Indian Legislature subsequent to the Charter Act of 1834, any statute by which similar provisions have been enacted for Madras.

That, in cases to which Regulation XVII. of 1806 does not apply, the interest of a mortgagee under a deed of conditional sale becomes absolute according to the terms of contract by the mere failure of the mortgagor to redeem within the stipulated period, has recently been decided by a Full Bench of the High Court of Bengal in the case of Surreeoonissa *v.* Shaikh Enayet Hossein, 5 Weekly Reporter, p. 88. In that case the mortgage bore date the 30th of November 1801; the mortgage was made payable on the 28th of September 1806. The mortgagor sued for redemption, and the mortgagee admitted that there had been no foreclosure pursuant to the Regulation. The High Court, however, ruled that, if the Regulation did not apply, the interest of the mortgagee became absolute on the 28th of September 1806; and finding that the Regulation had not been promulgated, and therefore had not become operative in the district until the 7th of January 1807, dismissed the plaintiff's suit. The point so decided is also assumed to be law in the judgment delivered at this Board in the case of Forbes *v.* Ameeronissa Begum, 10 Moore's Indian Appeals 348;* and unless it be law,

*5 W. R., P. C., p. 47.

is difficult to see why the Regulation of 06 was passed.

Their Lordships have been unable to dis-ver that there has been any course of deci-ns in the Court of Madras which can be against the authority just cited. The nost that can be gathered from this record that some uncertainty concerning the oper-on of these contracts may have crept into Lower Courts of Madras. If the Princi-Sudder Ameen was right in thinking that s afforded a reason why the appellant had ght to strengthen his title by the production the false deed No. 2, it is to be observed t the plaintiffs, on the other hand, showed ir sense of the uncertainty of the law by ting up the false case that another form mortgage had finally been substituted for deed of conditional sale. Moreover, the dder Court does not rest its judgment on decided cases. The first reason ad-nced in support of that judgment is arly untenable. That a party is precluded m relying upon a title established by a deed nclusively found to be genuine, because has foolishly and wickedly set up a false ed which, if treated as a conveyance, and t as a mere confirmation, may be incon-tent with that title, is a proposition for ich there is no foundation, either in reason in law. Nor does the second reason assign-for the judgment appear to their Lord-ps to be better founded. It assumes that obligation lay on the mortgagee to do some by way of enforcing what is not ver rrectly termed the penalty, and that there uld be no adverse possession against the ortgagor until there had been a tender and usal of the mortgage-money. But this sumption implies that, in some way or an-her, the rights and obligations of the parties, defined by the contract, had been qualified by known rule of law. Their Lordships have eady stated that, so far as they can discover, such qualifications have been introduced, in Bengal, by any act of legislation into e Statute Law applicable to Madras. What known in the law of England as "the equity redemption" depends on the doctrine esta-shed by Courts of Equity, that the time pulated in the mortgage-deed is not of the essence of the contract. Such a doctrine was unknown to the ancient law of India: and if it could have been introduced by the decisions of the Courts of the East Indian Company, their Lordships can find no such course of decision. In fact, the weight of authority seems to be the other way. It must not then be supposed that, in allowing this appeal, their Lordships design to disturb any rule of property established by judicial decisions so as to form part of the Law of the Forum, wherever such may prevail, or to affect any title founded thereon.

Their Lordships, therefore, being of opinion that the decree under appeal is erroneous and ought to be reversed, and that the special appeal to the Sudder Court ought to have been dismissed with costs, will advise Her Majesty accordingly. But considering the great and unexplained delay which has taken place in the prosecution of this appeal, they do not think that they ought to give the appellant the costs of it.

The 20th January 1871.

Present:

Lord Cairns, Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Questions of fact—Boundary-case.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Maharaj Koomar Baboo Guneshur Singh

versus

Doorga Dutt and others.

Follows the principle on which the Privy Council have hitherto acted in appeals on questions of fact, and confirms the concurrent decisions of the Lower Courts on a question of fact as to boundaries, where the local knowledge of local Judges and the observation of the local witnesses are all important.

If it could be shown us in this case that there was a clear miscarriage of justice, that is to say, that there was no evidence whatever which would have warranted the conclusion at which the Court below has arrived, or that, in the conduct of the trial, in the mode in which the evidence was adduced, in the course that was pursued as to holding the balance of justice between the parties in the course of the trial, there was a clear departure from the ordinary principles which regulate judicial proceedings, then their Lordships, notwithstanding the decision of the two Courts below, would

* From the judgment of Peacock, C.J., and Bayley and Kemp, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 36 of 1862, decided 11th November 1862—not reported.

have entertained and considered the appeal. But their Lordships are clearly of opinion that, when the question is one simply of fact, and when, above all things, that question of fact is a question of fact as to boundaries, where the local knowledge of local Judges and the observation of the local witnesses are all important, they would be departing from what has been the practice of this tribunal if they were to act in opposition to the well-considered judgment of the two Courts from whom the appeal comes. It is admitted, and could not be otherwise than admitted, that there is evidence which, if believed, would have justified those judgments. Their Lordships are of opinion that the Courts below were the best tribunal for deciding the question whether the evidence was credible or not, and they would be entirely unwilling to disturb their judgments.

Their Lordships, therefore, will humbly advise Her Majesty that this appeal should be dismissed with costs. In the view which has been expressed of the case, it is unnecessary to consider or to express any opinion upon the point as to the Statute of Limitations.

The 21st January 1871.

Present:

Lord Cairns, Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Compromise—Excess land—Wassilat.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Nilcomul Lahoree and others

versus

Gonomonee Dabea and another.

Where the parties to a suit which went up on appeal to the High Court entered into an agreement in 1826, by one of the terms of which it was stipulated that both parties should provisionally take possession of certain portions of the land in dispute, but that either party would be at liberty, within 12 months from the date of the agreement, to apply to the proper tribunal to effect a rectification in the quantity of land which each was to hold permanently, and one of the parties did make such application to the local Judge, who refused to entertain it on the ground that the appeal (which under the agreement was to be abandoned) was still before the High Court, it was held by the Privy Council that the local Judge should either have entertained the application himself as an original suit, or have kept possession of it until a petition had been presented to the Sudder Court to make the agreement a proceeding of that Court, and to have an order giving effect to it by way of compromise.

Where the final rectification of the shares of land resulted in the respondent getting a larger portion than he had held provisionally under the agreement, and the respondent was put into possession of the additional share in 1854, his right to wassilat for such portion followed as a matter of course unless barred by some final impediment, and limitation, in a suit by him for such wassilat, it was held, began to run from 1854 when the rightful partition was completed.

There is some obscurity and difficulty in this case, arising chiefly from the length of time during which the litigation has unfortunately continued, and from some of the proceedings in the course of that litigation not having been conducted with the perfect regularity which would have been desirable. But disembarrassing the case as far as possible from those difficulties, the facts appear on examination to be simple, and the law applicable to them to be without doubt.

Now, what their Lordships find is this. So long ago as the year 1828, there was a controversy between the two persons whom I will term the appellant and respondent, although there has been a change of interest since that time, and there are now more appellants than one and more respondents than one. The appellant apparently had become possessed by purchase of the zemindary in question, and had sold a four-annas share of it to the respondent. The respondent appears to have desired the fulfilment of that bargain, to be let into possession, and to have the wassilat or mesne-profits for the four-annas share during the time he had been kept out of possession, and he instituted a suit for that purpose, and obtained a decree from the Court of first instance. He was ordered to be put into possession. The owner of the larger share appealed to the Sudder Court; and pending the appeal, the possession of the respondent was suspended, and the appellant was left in possession of the whole. In that state of things, the parties, apprehending the delay and expense of the prosecution of the case in the Sudder Court, and the owner of the smaller share, being anxious to get into possession of his property, came to an agreement which is upon record at pages 25 and 26. The substance of that agreement was this. The facts that I have stated were recited. The agreement provided that there should be an immediate possession given to the appellant and to the respondent of portions, at all events, of cultivated land—an immediate separate possession of portions of the cultivated land which were taken provisionally, and only provisionally, to be as near as then could be ascertained the proper proportion to which each was entitled, *viz.*, a share of twelve annas

* From the judgment of Loch and E. Jackson, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 477 of 1863, decided 3rd May 1864—not reported.

nd a share of four annas. Those proportions were mentioned by some general ames and descriptions which need not now e specified. But then, as it was apparently bvious to both parties that that division nd that possession would not be accurate ith regard to the real rights of the parties, was carefully stipulated that it should e only provisional, and that it should be ubject to rectification. The parties, therefore, proposed that the rectification should ake place in this way. If either desired t in the course of the ensuing twelve nonths, he was to have an arbitrator appointd, that is to say, he was to propose some erson who would be acceptable to the other erson concerned, and the rectification was o take place by the award of the arbitrator; ut if the arbitrator was not appointed, then he person, who was injured by his not being ppointed, was to have liberty to appeal to what is termed the Hakim, which has been ery properly considered to be the proper tribunal—whatever it might be—to appeal to the proper tribunal for the purpose of having effect given to this agreement as to the rectification of shares. There was a provision that the appeal in the Sudder Court was not to be proceeded with, and that an application was to be made to the Sudder Court to have that appeal dismissed, and this instrument of compromise put upon record in place of the decree. Then the agreement contained this clause. It is a clause relating to wassilat, but it is a clause which, as their Lordships think, is not a clause to be read as giving a right in certain cases to wassilat, but as defeating a right to wassilat which, it is assumed, would exist if it is not taken away. It was natural to suppose, and it would naturally follow, that, if upon the rectification of the provisional arrangement made by this agreement, it should appear that one or other had been for a time in possession of a larger share of the zemindary than his proper proportion, the person so in possession of the larger share would have to pay wassilat or back rents—mesne-profits—to him who had had the share which was not adequate to that to which he was entitled. It was provided, therefore, in these words: "Should "any one amongst us both, through negli-"gence, fail to appoint an arbitrator, then "he who should think this injurious to his "right shall, within the said period, apply "to the Judges of Court"—that is the Hakim —"for determination of the matters above "mentioned; if, by not doing this within the "said limited period, any one should bring "a suit for the excess after the expiration "of the limited period, then he shall have "no claim for wassilat of the same which "had accrued during the period of dispos-"session; if the claim for wassilat be made, "that will not be valid."

I repeat, their Lordships think this is clearly a clause of defeasance of forfeiture of that which otherwise would plainly be the right of the person in possession of the share less than he was entitled to. It is obvious that an arrangement of a different kind might have been made. The rents might have been impounded, they might have been kept *in medio*, or in the hands of some third party, until it was ascertained what was the true proportion which each should be put in possession of. That would have been clearly inconvenient to both parties; that was the very thing they wanted to avoid. Both parties, therefore, were put into possession of that which was the nearest estimate that could be made of their respective rights, in order that they might enjoy the advantages and the profits of the land, but that was all subject to rectification as to the quantity, and therefore subject also to making good to the party injured any excess of profit which the other might have derived.

That being the agreement made in 1826, we have next to consider what took place in the twelve months which followed the date of the agreement. The agreement was dated the 22nd September 1826. What followed was this: On the 26th June 1827, both parties applied by petition to the Commissioner of the district in which they both lived, putting before him this deed of compromise, and asking him to send it to the Sudder Court. The Judge to whom the application was made thought this was an irregular proceeding, that they ought themselves to forward it to the Sudder Court if they desired it. But two days afterwards, on the 28th June 1827, the respondent presented a petition in his own name to the same Commissioner, the local Judge, asking that effect might be given to this arrangement, and that proceedings might be taken in substance to rectify in his favor the division that had been made of the land by the agreement. The Commissioner gave in substance the same answer which he had given to the former petition, that the suit was before the Sudder Court, and that the application should be made to the Sudder Court.

Now, at this point of the case, their Lordships must express their opinion that the application of the respondent being in the

nature of an original claim founded, not on the former cause of action, but upon the agreement made in 1826 and the special terms of that agreement, the application to the original Judge might well have been entertained by him, and, at all events, they are not prepared to say that that application was made so improperly, so irregularly, to a person so entirely devoid of jurisdiction, as to lead to a forfeiture under the clause to which reference has been made, on the score that the respondent had not applied within twelve months to the proper Hakim on the subject. Their Lordships are of opinion that the Commissioner to whom the application was made might well either have entertained the application himself as an original suit, or, at all events, might have kept possession of it until a petition had been presented to the Sudder Court to make this agreement entered into in 1826 a proceeding of that Court, and to have an order giving effect to it by way of compromise. However, the Commissioner took a different view; but that, in their Lordships' opinion, cannot, if the proceeding was a proper proceeding on the part of the respondent, have the effect of subjecting the respondent to forfeiture under the clause of the agreement.

On the 13th September 1827, it appears that application was made to the Sudder Court by the appellant to make the compromise a proceeding or record of that Court, and to give directions for carrying it into effect, which the Sudder Court, on the 28th February 1828, ordered accordingly. That, of course, was after the expiration of the twelve months.

Their Lordships, therefore, are of opinion on this part of the case that the decision of the High Court from which the present appeal is brought was a correct decision, and that the High Court were warranted in holding that there had been no forfeiture of the right to wassilat under this clause in the agreement, by reason of the respondent not taking the proceedings within the twelve months.

It is necessary now to refer to the subsequent proceedings in order to dispose of the second part of the case as to the Statute of Limitations. On the 28th August 1828, the respondent applied to the local Collector for a rectification of partition of the zemindary. That was not in the form of a plaint or of an original action, but in the form of a petition. The Collector thought that the Sudder Court having had seizin of the appeal in the original cause, he had not jurisdiction to entertain this petition; and accordingly an application was made in the year 1832 to the Sudder Court by the respondent to rectify the division of the land. It is somewhat difficult to understand whether this is to be looked upon as an original proceeding, or as a proceeding carrying out and continuing the chain of the former proceedings in the case. Their Lordships are disposed to think that it is in the latter point of view that it ought to be looked at. There was the original suit in 1826 to which I have already referred: there was the compromise; there was the petition in the Sudder Court to have effect given to the compromise; and there was then this further proceeding in the Sudder Court to give that particular effect to the compromise which consisted in the rectification of the division of the zemindary. On the 28th July 1853, that is, after a lapse of twenty-one years, a scheme for the rectification of the partition was submitted to the Sudder Court by the officer who had been assigned for the purpose, and on the 25th April 1854 the Sudder Court confirmed that scheme. On the 25th July 1854, the respondent, who had been found by that scheme to be entitled to a very considerably larger share of the zemindary than he had been in possession of, was put into possession of the additional portion to which he thus was found to be entitled.

Now, I have stated already that their Lordships are of opinion that, consequential upon the agreement of 1826, there would be the right of claim for wassilat or mesne-profits, if it should be ascertained that either party had not, according to the provisional partition then made, been put into possession of the share to which he was rightfully entitled. Whether either party was in possession of a larger share than his proper share could not be ascertained, and was not ascertained, until the rightful and proper partition was finally made. Until that period it was a matter of doubt and uncertainty whether there would be any claim for mesne-profits or wassilat at all, and of still greater uncertainty, necessarily, what the amount of that claim might possibly be. On the other hand, when once it was ascertained that either party had been in possession of a share smaller than his own, his right to wassilat would follow as a matter of course, unless barred by some special impediment which at present does not appear in the case. Therefore, in the year 1854, when possession was given to the respondent of the additional share to which he had thus become entitled, his right *primâ facie* would be also to receive

from the appellant that proportion of the mesne-profits of the land which would represent the excess, in possession of which the appellant had been, and out of possession of which the respondent had been kept. Their Lordships are not prepared to say that, without any substantive or original proceeding, and merely by means of an application to carry into effect the compromise in the suit, this right to wassilat might not have been asserted and enforced. But the course which was taken by the respondent was this. He did not apply by petition or in the original chain of proceedings, but he commenced on the 28th January 1862 a separate and original suit to recover this wassilat, but to recover it as a claim which flowed out of the former proceedings. Now, putting aside for a moment the lapse of time between July 1854 and January 1862, their Lordships, although they do not affirm the regularity or the necessity for the plaint of 1862 as an original proceeding, are notwithstanding of opinion that, if there is any irregularity, there is not such an irregularity in originating that separate proceeding as should disentitle the respondent to his claim for wassilat, if he otherwise was entitled to it; and that he was otherwise entitled to it, their Lordships have already expressed to be their opinion.

Is then the claim of the respondent limited in any, and what way, by any Statute of Limitation? Their Lordships are of opinion that it is impossible to show that the Statute of Limitations, the Act of 1859, which cuts down a right in cases of this kind to six years, was in force in Assam at a period which would make it applicable to this suit, and that, therefore, may be put aside. The other period of limitation is the limitation of twelve years. If the law of limitation on that score is applicable at all, it could only be by analogy, and not by any positive words of the law. But when their Lordships consider all the circumstances of this case, they are of opinion that it would be contrary to the spirit and object of the Statute of Limitations to apply that law, even by analogy, in the present case. Their Lordships do not desire to treat this case as a case of trust, as it appears to have been viewed by the High Court from whom the appeal comes. Their Lordships are unable to see that the appellant and respondent stood to each other in the position of trustee and *cestui qui* trust. But their Lordships consider, as they have already said, that the right to wassilat was a right distinctly flowing out of, and consequential upon, the right to the rectification of the partition, that the right could not have been ascertained or enforced until the rightful partition was completed, that is to say, in the year 1854, and that it is to the year 1854 they must look as the period when the right to wassilat would accrue. If that is so, their Lordships do not think the lapse of time between 1854 and 1862 should disentitle the respondent to that which he otherwise would be entitled to. In saying this, their Lordships do not mean to affirm that it may not be in the power of the appellant to show any special circumstances, which he may be able to show, which should limit, as a matter of equity on the part of the Court, the claim of the respondent to mesne-profits to some period short of the whole number of years between 1854 and 1862, during which the respondent was kept out of possession of the larger share to which he was entitled. They desire to leave that question open. It will be open to the appellant, in taking the account for which the case has been remitted to the Court of first instance by the High Court, to show any special case (if he is able to show it) by way of appeal to the equity of the Court to shorten the account which otherwise would have to be taken of the mesne-profits. Their Lordships leave that view of the case, if it can be presented by the appellant, entirely untouched by what has now been said.

On the whole, therefore, their Lordships are of opinion that in substance the decision of the High Court is correct; they think that the present appeal ought not to succeed, and they will humbly advise Her Majesty that it should be dismissed with costs.

The 8th February 1871.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, Lord Justice James, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Adoption—Will—Long possession.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Rajendro Nath Holdar

versus

Jogendro Nath Banerjee.

The case of a Hindoo claiming by adoption under a Will which was put forward shortly after the testator's death, and which was acted upon and recognized for a period of 27 years by the whole family, the validity of

* On appeal from the judgment of Trevor and Glover, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 260 of 1866, decided 8th April 1867—7 W. R., *Civil*, 357.

which Will was questioned in a suit brought by the person adopted against members of the family, was considered to be analogous to a case in which the legitimacy of a person in possession is questioned a very considerable time after his possession has been acquired by a party who has a strict legal right to question his legitimacy. In such a case, the defendant, in order to defend his status, should be allowed to invoke against the claimant every presumption which reasonably arises from the long recognition of his legitimacy by members of the family or other persons.

Judgment of the Appellate Court, which differed from the Lower Court as to the evidence with respect to the validity of the Will, reversed.

THIS case had been extremely well argued on both sides; but their Lordships, having had time to examine the evidence and having now weighed the arguments on both sides, have come to a clear conclusion that this appeal ought to be allowed, and the grounds of that conclusion I am now instructed to state.

The question is one touching the right of succession to the estate of one Kali Prosad Holdar, a Brahmin, who seems to have been possessed of a considerable estate, including certain spiritual rights and privileges connected with the worship of the Goddess Kalee in the well-known temple in the vicinity of Calcutta. Kali Prosad died on the 16th Assin 1244, a day which corresponds with some day in September 1837. He left a widow, a mother, and four sisters. The mother predeceased the widow, and died in 1855; the widow died in July 1864. Of the four sisters, two are dead—one of them without issue, the other leaving a daughter. And of the two surviving sisters, one is childless, and the fourth only has male issue, namely, the respondent Jogendro Nath and the infant respondent Kameeka Nath Banerjee, and these two persons, if Kali Prosad died intestate, are the persons who, according to Hindoo Law, would be entitled to inherit the estate in succession to the widow.

Shortly after the widow's death in 1844, the respondent, Jogendro Nath, suing, *in formâ pauperis*, commenced this suit, in which he claims to recover an eight-annas share of the estate from the appellant, who claims under an adoption by the widow alleged to have been made by virtue of a testamentary disposition of her husband, and from the other persons claiming interests in the estate under that testamentary disposition. The infant brother is made a defendant *pro formâ* on the record, and is represented by his father and guardian Kasseeputtee Banerjee.

The appeal, however, has been argued as if the litigation were confined to the adopted son of the widow, who is in possession, that is the appellant, and the respondent Jogendro Nath; and in that point of view, it will be convenient to consider it.

The issues are stated at page 18: they are these: "Whether or not the suit is barred "by the Statute of Limitation? Whether "or not the Will, the Dan Unnoomottee "puttro of the 6th Assin 1244, B S., alluded "to in the written statement filed by the de-"fendant Rajendro, was a genuine document; "if so, whether the defendant had been, ac-"cording to the Shastras, adopted by Matun-"ginee Dabea, widow of Kali Prosad Holdar, "deceased?" The next issue is: "Whether, "in event of the aforesaid deed of gift being "not proved, the plaintiff is entitled, under "the Hindoo Law, to succeed to the estate or "property included in the suit? and if so, "whether he is entitled to possess the whole "estate or not?"

Of these issues the second alone, and perhaps only part of the second, is material. The first issue, that upon the Statute of Limitations, was originally determined by the Principal Sudder Ameen, the Judge of first instance, in favor of the defendant. His decision was reversed on appeal, and it has been candidly and fairly admitted at the bar by Mr. Bell that it is impossible to impeach that decision; that, according to the authorities in India, time would only begin to run against the respondent from the date of the widow's death.

Again the third issue, it may be assumed, would, if it were necessary to try it, be necessarily found in favor of the respondent, the plaintiff in the suit, to the extent of the interest claimed by him in the estate, namely, a moiety or eight annas.

With respect to the second issue, it has been suggested by Mr. Doyne that it may admit of the contention on his part that the adoption of the respondent was invalid, because it was not made with the consent of the mother, which the Will made a condition precedent to any adoption. But their Lordships, as they have already intimated, do not consider that that point is in terms open upon the issue, the latter part of the issue being "whether the defendant had been, according "to the Shastras, adopted by Matunginee "Dabea, widow of Kali Prosad Holdar, de-"ceased." Those words really raise only the question whether all the ceremonies and whatever other requisites the Hindoo Law has made essential to an adoption, had been complied with. Their Lordships would not have held the parties strictly bound to the terms of the issue, if they had seen any trace

that it had been understood in any other sense in the Court below. But they cannot find that that was the case, that it ever was raised below that the mother had not given her consent to that adoption; and they are confirmed in this by looking at the grounds of appeal which were filed by the respondents in the High Court in which he takes these two points with reference to the adoption: "The Lower Court has failed to "consider that Matunginee had no right to "adopt under the existing Hindoo Law of "adoption. There is no proof to show that the "ceremonies and formalities prescribed by the "Hindoo Law were legally performed, and the "defendant's adoption ought to have been "cancelled on that score." There is not a word suggesting that the mother's consent had not been given. Under these circumstances, if the mother's consent were necessary under the Will, as to which their Lordships give no opinion, it must be presumed that that consent was given.

That part of the issue which relates to the validity of the adoption according to the Shastras was found by the Court of first instance in favor of the appellant. The High Court has intimated no opinion, as it was not necessary for them to decide that point, whether the judgment in that respect was right or not; but their Lordships have heard no reason whatever, and no grounds have been shown before their Lordships at the bar, for impugning that part of the decision of the Principal Sudder Ameen.

The sole question, therefore, on which the determination of this appeal depends is the validity of that Dan Unnoomottee puttro, which it will be convenient, as it is in its nature testamentary, to call in the observations which I shall hereafter make "the Will." This Will purports on the face of it to have been executed on the day of the testator's death. The effect of it, so far as it is necessary to read the passage, is correctly stated in the judgment of the High Court. The Judges say: "This deed," as they call it, "it will be observed, gives his wife Matun-"ginee permission, with the consent of his "mother Jeomoney, to adopt one son. It "makes a present division of his property "into seven annas and nine annas, but post-"pones the enjoyment of it by the parties for "whom the several shares are intended until "the death of his mother, who, during her "lifetime, is to be the proprietor and manager "of the whole sixteen annas of his property, "and to pay his debts out of the nine-annas "share, and other expenses of mainte-"nance, etc., out of the sixteen annas. On "the death of his mother, his four sisters are "to take possession of their seven-annas "share; and in case of any one of them dying "childless, her share is to descend to the "children of the other sisters. The nine-"annas share is to be the property, without "power of alienation, of Matunginee during "her life, and after her death, it is to descend "to her adopted son." I stop there because I am not clear that the Judges have really given the true construction of the concluding clauses of the Will in what follows, and it is unnecessary to consider whether that construction is right or not.

The earliest production of the document was within ten months of the testator's death, in August 1838. In that month Jeomoney, the mother of the deceased, came forward as executrix, as we should say, under this Will, claiming to be substituted as decree-holder in a suit in which her son had recovered a decree in his lifetime. The widow appeared on that occasion by her mooktear to support her mother-in-law's application. The Judge seems to have required, or the parties to have tendered, proof of this instrument. The writer of the instrument was examined, and one, if not two, of the attesting witnesses were also examined. The evidence, such as it was, seems to have satisfied the Judge, at all events for the purposes of the application, that the document was to be treated as a true document; and accordingly the mother was substituted as the decree-holder.

So far, therefore, the widow, who was the heiress-at-law of the alleged testator, was supporting the alleged testacy. In 1844, however, there seems to have been some change in her disposition in that respect and some disagreement in the family, and she then made the application which is found at page 69 of the record, to sue *in formâ pauperis*, in order to assert her rights as heiress-at-law. She appears from that document at that time to have left her husband's house and to be residing in her father's house, where, of course, she would be under the influence of parties who would urge her to assert her extreme rights, and if they considered it necessary for her rights to do so to dispute the Will. Whatever she may have actually done after that in the suit does not appear, but it is clear that in 1845 that litigation was compromised, and she reverted to her original position of a person supporting the Will, and taking under it. The compromise is at page 75. The effect of it was that the Will was

admitted as the foundation of the rights of the family, but the mother retired from that position in which the Will placed her of being mooktear of the whole estate—the person managing the estate with whatever beneficial interest that management might give her, and supporting the whole family out of the proceeds of the whole estate; and that she thenceforward agreed to be entitled to receive maintenance only, and to put the widow in the possession of that which the Will gave to her and the sisters—in immediate possession of that which the Will gave to them. Now, that compromise has been very much relied upon by Mr. Doyne as affording an argument against the validity of the Will. Their Lordships are unable to accede to the argument which he has laid before them. His contention is that it must be presumed that the mother would not have agreed to those terms unless she knew that the Will was a false document, and was afraid of its validity being contested in open Court. But, on the other hand, it may equally be said that the widow would not have agreed to relinquish her claim to the whole estate, if she had known that the document could not be proved in open Court, and that she had every chance of gaining her suit. Without imputing such a motive to the mother, it seems not wholly unnatural to suppose that she might be guided in that by the advice of members of the family—that they might have put before her that the estate would very likely be wasted in litigation—that the proof of a Hindoo Will, when a true document, is always an uncertain thing, and that, being advanced in years, and having her daughters put in possession of seven annas of the property, her position would not be materially worse, and that she might fairly agree, for the sake of peace, to make the sacrifice which she did make. On the whole, their Lordships think that it is impossible to draw any conclusion from that compromise which militates strongly against the evidence in favor of the Will.

From that time forth, with perhaps one exception, the family appear to have acted consistently upon the Will. This compromise was filed in 1845. The adoption was, I think, in 1848; but, intermediately, there are several proceedings both before and after the adoption in which all the family put forward this Will claiming under the Will; and, in fact, there is nothing, except the document to which I am now about to refer, which shows that the Will was questioned by any of the immediate family of Kali Prosad. That document is the one filed on the part of the respondents, and is at page 33 of the record. It is the petition of the widow, when a party, a relation of the family, who had recovered a decree for costs against the mother, was seeking after the mother's death, to get these costs from the widow: and she, after stating that she had no connection with the widow as heir, that the heirs of the mother were her daughters, no doubt, does in the second paragraph of her petition speak of having been induced to consent to a division of the whole sixteen annas by collusion. But this document is filed in the Court by her mooktear; it does not seem to have been signed by her; and their Lordships, considering that in this very document she describes herself as the mother and guardian of the son adopted under the Will, cannot ascribe any importance to it, or suppose that this statement is anything but one of those statements which a native mooktear is so apt to put in without much regard to the truth of what is alleged in it in order to gain some immediate object in the suit in which it is filed. The adoption took place with great publicity and formality, was known to all the members of the family, and must be presumed to have been made under the Will.

We therefore find that for a period of 27 years this Will was, with the exceptions I have mentioned, acted upon and recognized by the whole of the family of Kali Prosad, and that the legal *status* of the appellant was acquired under it with the knowledge of all the members of the family. If the document had been a fabrication, and if there were persons who might have intervened and have contested the Will, the presumptive heir, who was in existence before his title was defeated by the birth of the present respondent, might have come forward in one way or another and contested the Will. Therefore, there arises from all these circumstances a very strong presumption, which their Lordships do not feel themselves at liberty to disregard, in favor of the Will. No doubt, these circumstances, as the law stands, are not conclusive against the respondent. He has the right to call upon the appellant, the defendant in the suit, to prove his title: but their Lordships cannot but feel that, while he has that extreme right, every allowance that can be fairly made for the loss of evidence during this long period by death or otherwise—every allowance which can account for any imperfection in the evidence—ought to be made; and, on the other hand, that in testing the credibility of the evidence which is actually given, great weight should be given to all those inferences and presumptions which arise from the conduct of the family with

respect to the Will, and to the acts done by them under the will. The case seems to their Lordships to be analogous to one in which the legitimacy of a person in possession is questioned, a very considerable time after his possession has been acquired, by a party who has a strict legal right to question his legitimacy. In such a case the defendant, in order to defend his *status*, should be allowed to invoke against the claimant every presumption which reasonably arises from the long recognition of his legitimacy by members of the family or other persons. The case of a Hindoo claiming by adoption is perhaps as strong as any case of the kind that can be put; because when, under a document which is supposed and admitted by the whole family to be genuine, he is adopted, he loses the rights—he may lose them altogether—which he would have in his own family; and it would be most unjust, after long lapse of time, to deprive him of the *status* which he has acquired in the family into which he has been introduced, except upon the strongest proof of the alleged defect in his title.

With these observations, their Lordships proceed to consider the direct evidence as to the validity of this Will. They do not propose to go into it at any great detail. It was fully considered in the first instance by the Principal Sudder Amen himself, a Brahmin, who has embodied his conclusions in a judgment, the careful preparation and expression of which seems to their Lordships to be highly creditable to that native Judge. He came to a clear conclusion that the witnesses who were called by the respondent to show that Kali Prosad was in such a state of body that it was impossible that he could have executed this Will, were persons of no credit, and not to be believed. He, also weighing all the circumstances, giving weight to the probabilities of the case, and considering the positive testimony which had been adduced before him, came to a clear conclusion that the Will was genuine, and ought to have been affirmed. Upon appeal to the High Court the learned Judges of that Court, for reasons which they have not recorded, but which may easily be presumed to have been a desire to examine the subscribing witnesses for themselves, and also to examine the subscribing witness who had not been called in the Court below, the father of the respondent, re-examined the three witnesses who had been examined, and examined for the first time Kasseeputtee Banerjee. Of the evidence then taken, it may be said that the witnesses who were re-examined do not appear to have been in any degree shaken, and the cross-examination of one of them, Shiboram Chatterjee, elicited some fuller account of the preparation of the Will, which is not altogether immaterial, if true, to the appellant's case. Of the evidence of Kasseeputtee Banerjee it is sufficient to say that it amounted only to this, that though his name did appear upon the document, it had been added some twenty days after the death of the testator at the instigation of the mother, who told him that the arrangement was for the benefit of his future son, and that her consent was necessary to any adoption. He does not venture to express a conviction one way or the other as to the truth or falsehood of the Will, and it is obvious that his statement, taking it in the most favorable sense, that he merely put his signature at that time to a document of which he had not witnessed the execution, on that persuasion, does not entitle him to very much credit. If, on the other hand, he did it believing the document to be a forgery, he would, of course, be entitled to much less credit, and therefore his evidence is not that upon which any reliance can be placed, and the Judges of the High Court do not appear to have grounded their judgment upon it. All they say as to the evidence of Kasseeputtee Banerjee is: "We think it better to form our "opinion on the merits of this case irrespective "of anything contained in it: although, "notwithstanding the equivocal position in "which he stands on his own showing, we "are inclined to think, that there is some "truth in what is stated as to the origin "of the deed now before the Court." That, therefore, may be left out of consideration.

Now if the two judgments are looked at in opposition to each other, it would appear that the learned Judges of the High Court have in the first place differed somewhat from the Principal Sudder Ameen in his appreciation of the probability that such a document as this should have been executed. They say: "As the Principal Sudder Ameen "has remarked, it is contended by the plaint-"iff that that deed was a concoction of Kali "Prosad's mother, Jeomoney, who fabricated "it to provide for her daughters, for whom a "Hindoo mother has greater affection than "for male children, and that it was only to "quiet the wife that nine annas of the pro-"perty was allotted to her; whereas by the "defendant it is urged that Kali Prosad's "four sisters were, according to the custom "of the family, married to Koolin Brahmins, "who never take their wives to their home "or otherwise maintain them; that mindful "of their helpless situation and of his own

"salvation, he made a provision for the former "at the same time that he provided for the "maintenance of the latter; and that, as a duti-"ful Hindoo son, he made the mother manager "and proprietor; that, moreover, Kali Prosad's "income was about Rupees 800 a year, and "that one quarter of seven annas of that sum, "*viz.*, 85 rupees per annum, was not an out of-"the-way sum for each of his sisters. There "is no doubt that this deed is for the benefit "of the sisters of Kali Prosad Holdar, and that "it is only in case his adopted son has issue "that nine annas of the property can remain "away from the sisters or their heirs even-"tually. Without going so far as saying "that there is an antecedent improbability "in this distribution of the testator's pro-"perty, the Court has no hesitation in saying "that that distribution is unusual. A per-"mission is not given to the wife to adopt "more than one son, and the adopted son's "patrimony is cut down, and it does not "become vested in him until after his mother's "death; and if he dies issueless, the property "goes to the testator's sisters and their heirs. "As to the necessity of Kali Prosad providing "for his sisters married to Koolins by a deed "of that sort, that is not so apparent. Whilst "they live in the family-house the obligation "would remain on Kali Prosad and his heirs "to maintain them and their children, but to "divide his estate in this way is to go beyond "the obligation which the Hindoo Law im-"posed on Kali Prosad. Again, the Court "does not see the justice of considering the "adopted son of a stranger, and of contrast-"ing him in the position of a stranger with "that of the testator's sisters. After the "adoption, the adopted son is no longer a "stranger; he is the person who procures "the salvation of his adopting father, and "therefore, in the face of so great a benefit "accruing to the testator from the son "adopted, any permanent diminution of the "property left to him, even to the amount of "four times 85,340 rupees a year, bears "the semblance of injustice."

On this it is to be observed that the principal point upon which they differ from the Principal Sudder Ameen is the probability of the provision made for the sisters by giving them specific shares in the property, instead of giving them mere allowance for maintenance; and it may be very true, as the learned Judges say, that these sisters being married to Koolin Brahmins, there would remain the obligation on Kali Prosad or his successors to maintain them. The whole question was, however, raised before the Principal Sudder Ameen, who, as a Brahmin, is at least as likely as the Judges of the High Court to know what a Brahmin would be likely to do in those circumstances, and he has expressed an opinion that the provision was not an unnatural one for the testator to make in those circumstances. Again, it is, no doubt, true that greater power is given the mother than she would have naturally under the law, and that the interest of the adopted son is postponed, and that the disposition is altogether different from that which might have been made by a man who had in his mind the single object of leaving an adopted son.

It is possible, and it has occurred to their Lordships, considering that evidence which points to the provisions of the Will having been discussed a day or two before its actual execution, and to the relations subsisting between the members of this family, that there may have been something like a compromise in the testator's mind, namely, that there may have been some pressure upon him on the part of his mother to make a larger provision for his sisters; on the other hand, that he was anxious to carry out the principle, dear to every Hindoo, of having an adopted son, and that the actual disposition may have been the result of some such a compromise. But their Lordships have to observe that they are not dealing here with a question whether a disposition has been obtained by any undue influence or under any pressure of that kind, but upon the issue whether this document is a forgery or is the Will of the testator.

Another point upon which the learned Judges of the Sudder have intimated some dissent from the Principal Sudder Ameen was the credit to be given to two of the witnesses examined, namely, the two young men, Denonath Holdar and Koylas Chunder Banerjee. They say of that: "We do not believe "the statement of Denonath Holdar and "Koylas Chunder Banerjee on this point. "They were both boys; no intelligible reason "is given for their being at Kali Prosad's at "such a time, and the evidence before us as "to the duration of Kali Prosad's sickness, as "to his state two days before his death, and "as to his state on the day of his death, even "if it be credited, does not admit of our be-"lieving at the same time that he entered into "those explanatory conversations with the "witnesses which in their depositions they "detail." The observation that is founded upon the age of these two witnesses might have some force, if this document were now produced for the first time, and their names were found upon it as subscribing witnesses. But the argument is all the other way, when it is considered that

he document was beyond all question produced in 1838; because it is in the highest degree improbable that, if persons were concocting a forgery, they would call into their councils two boys sixteen or seventeen years old, who would be manifestly, from their youth, not likely persons to be entrusted with the secret. They have given an explanation which seemed plausible to the Principal Sudder Ameen, and seems plausible to their Lordships, for their presence on that occasion. The explanation is that a message came to the father of one of them to go to the house, that he was prevented by business from going to the house, and he said to the son: "Will you go?" The son met a companion, also apparently a relation of the family, and they went together. There may be some little exaggeration as to the amount of explanation given, but their Lordships see no reason, as the Principal Sudder Ameen saw no reason, why their statement, that the testator did actually acknowledge before them that the document was his Will, should be discredited.

Therefore, going through the whole of these two judgments, it appears to their Lordships that really the *ratio decidendi*, or at least the turning point in the minds of the learned Judges, was the impression which they derived from the inspection of the letter M. Now, that point was not taken for the first time before the High Court. The suggestion seems also to have been made in the Court of the Principal Sudder Ameen, and he, as we understand his judgment, thought that there was nothing in it. Now, with great respect for the knowledge which the two learned Judges of the High Court possessed, as their Lordships doubt not, of the Bengalee language, their Lordships cannot but think that, upon such a point as that, the native Judge, examining a letter in his own alphabet, is more likely to be a competent Judge than the two European Judges. But independently of that, it appears to their Lordships to be a very unsafe ground of decision. The evidence as to the absolute prostration and insensibility of the testator at the time has been discredited. No doubt, his own witnesses state that he put this letter, feeling too weak to write his name at full. But it is impossible from the mere inspection of the letter, as it appears to their Lordships, to be able to predicate, with any degree of certainty or accuracy, that the man was too weak to make the impression with his pen which he is said to have made. It is impossible to say what momentary rally of strength might take place to do an act of such brevity as that; and, therefore, their Lordships are unable to give to that, which is after all merely the impression of these two Judges derived from actual inspection, the weight which has been given to it. They cannot think (considering that the evidence, supported as it is by the presumptions to which reference has been made on the whole, greatly preponderates in favour of the genuineness of this instrument), that the mere appearance to the eyes of those Judges of that letter is sufficient to outweigh it; and therefore their Lordships, however great their respect for the judgment of the High Court, feel that it is their duty in the present case to advise Her Majesty to allow this appeal, to reverse the judgment of the High Court, and to direct that, in lieu thereof, an order be made dismissing the appeal to the High Court. The party having sued *in formâ pauperis*, their Lordships will further recommend that an order be made dismissing the appeal to the High Court with such costs, if any, as according to the practice of that Court, are given to an appellant suing *in formâ pauperis*, and the repayment of any costs that have been paid by the appellant; and their Lordships, considering that they are dealing with an heir-at-law questioning this Will, and supporting a judgment which has really been in his favour setting aside the Will, are not disposed to make any order as to the costs of this appeal.

The 3rd February 1871.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, Lord Justice James, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Succession—Family-custom.

On Appeal from the High Court at Madras.

Serumah Umah and another,

versus

Palathan Vitil Marya Coothy Umah and another.

If it is contended that the succession to property is regulated by any special family-custom, that custom ought to be alleged and proved with distinctness and certainty.

THE suit out of which this appeal has arisen was instituted by two ladies, who were

the daughters of one Patha Kutti. In the course of the litigation they died, and a daughter of each of them was substituted in the room of her mother as plaintiff on the record. It may be assumed that the persons so substituted, the appellants, were the representatives of the original plaintiffs, and, in determining the appeal, it will be more convenient to speak throughout of the original plaintiffs as if they had carried on the litigation to the end.

The suit was brought against those who may be taken, for the purposes of the appeal, to have been the representatives of one Moidin Kutti, the son of one of the plaintiffs, and it was brought to recover property which, by the admission of both parties, was once the property of Patha Kutti. The history of that property it may be convenient shortly to mention. It was purchased from one Amaneth by Kunju Hajji, who was one of the sons of Patha Kutti. He afterwards died. There appears to have been a partition of his estate among the persons entitled thereto, under, as their Lordships collect from the proceedings, the general Mahomedan Law, and this particular property was assigned to, and became vested in, Patha Kutti as one of his heirs. Patha Kutti died in 1842, and before her death, *viz.*, some time in 1839, her grandson Moidin, in some character or another, unquestionably entered into possession of the property. He retained that possession up to the time of his own death in 1858 or 1859—a period of about twenty years. Upon his death, his widow and other representatives entered into possession, claiming as his heirs or under a title derived from him. The plaintiffs thereupon instituted this suit to recover possession of the property from them. The defendants relied both upon the long possession of Moidin and upon a title founded upon a deed of purchase from Patha Kutti. In that state of things it was necessary that the plaintiffs should recover by the strength of their own title; and they were met in the first instance by the plea of the Statute of Limitations founded upon the long possession of Moidin. The Zillah Judge, looking to the nature of the suit, has very properly overruled that plea as a bar to the trial of the suit; because the question whether the suit is barred by the Statute of Limitations or not necessarily depends upon the determination of the principal issue raised in the suit, namely, whether the long possession of Moidin Kutti was adverse or fiduciary; whether he was in possession of his own right as proprietor of the estate, or whether he merely managed the estate as the agent first of his grandmother and afterwards of the plaintiffs in the suit. It was therefore essential to the plaintiffs' case to establish the latter proposition.

What is the case which they make? It is that Moidin was first appointed manager by the grandmother; and that he was afterwards appointed to, or continued in, such management by them. But if he continued in possession in the character of agent or manager, it lies upon them to show that they, at the death of their mother, Patha Kutti, were entitled to assume the character of principals. And as their Lordships understand the pleadings and the evidence, in order to do this they say: We do claim a right to inherit the property as the general heirs, under the Mahomedan Law, of Patha Kutti; but we contend that either by some act done by her in her lifetime, or by some special custom of descent attaching to this property, we, and we alone, although she had other persons, who would, under the general law, have been co-heirs with her, became entitled to the whole of the property, either beneficially or with reference to some semi-religious trust; and therefore that Moidin Kutti, who continued in the possession of the estate as manager, was the agent of us and of us only; and that we only are entitled to recover the whole property. This, notwithstanding some confusion in the argument at the bar, and a suggestion that the plaintiffs might be suing as some of the heirs on behalf of all the heirs, appears to be really the effect of the title alleged and sought to be proved.

Then, upon what does the proof of this title rest? It appears to their Lordships to rest solely upon the oral testimony of three witnesses, who are entitled, no doubt, to all the advantage derivable from the fact that the Judge who saw them, the Zillah Judge, has stated that their demeanour in the box impressed him favourably. But when examined, that testimony appears to their Lordships to fall very far short of the evidence which is necessary to prove such a case as that which they were brought to support. They are none of them, it is to be observed, members of the family; almost all of them are described as Mopla merchants.

It is important to revert to the former history of the property. It is shown that it certainly passed to Patha Kutti under the general Mahomedan Law. It cannot, therefore, be said that it is property of which the devolution is governed by any local law or custom. If it is contended that the succession to it is regulated by any special family-custom, that custom ought to have been alleged

and proved with a distinctness and certainty which are wholly wanting here. If the evidence of these witnesses is examined, it really is not clear upon what they rest the plaintiffs' title. They seem to allege that some of the property of this Mopla family was governed by one law, and that other part of their property was governed by another law. It is admitted that this particular property came into the family, came to Patha Kutti under the general law; but then it is said that, by some act of hers done in her lifetime, she transferred it to what is called the tarwad or family-property, and made it subject to a different law of devolution, the nature of which is neither stated nor proved with that degree of certainty which is required to establish so special a case in any Court of Justice.

Therefore their Lordships, notwithstanding the favorable manner in which the Judge may have spoken of the demeanour of these witnesses, feel bound to concur with the High Court in refusing to believe the story to which they depose.

Two other witnesses were called to prove that Moidin accounted to his mother and his aunt for the proceeds of this property. They do not appear to be persons very likely to have been present at such a transaction. They attempted to prove that on one occasion, *viz.*, in 1850 or 1851, he accounted for the whole of the period during which he had then been in possession, but they did not agree in the account which they give of what passed on that occasion. One of them stated that the accounts were delivered to the plaintiffs; the other denied that any accounts were so delivered. This, therefore, seems to be evidence to which their Lordships cannot give any credit.

The Judge of first instance seems to have proceeded more upon the supposed defects in the defendants' proof of their title than upon the strength of the plaintiffs' title, and he called in aid various documents which had been proved in the case, and to which our attention has also been directed. But of those documents, the exhibits numbered from A to F, it is to be observed that, although they may here and there afford an inference, which tends to throw suspicion upon the genuineness of the defendants' deed, their general tendency is to contradict the case of the plaintiffs, and to support the case of the defendants; because they show that, during his twenty years' possession, Moidin was sometimes sued as the proprietor of the estate; and that, as proprietor of the estate, he petitioned the Collector for a remission of revenue. These proceedings took place publicly in the district; they can hardly have failed to come to the knowledge of the plaintiffs who, if their present case were true, would have called their manager to account for taking upon himself the character of absolute owner, when, in fact, he was a mere agent.

The plaintiffs, therefore, seem to their Lordships to have failed to prove that which was the substance of their case, namely, that the possession of Moidin was as fiduciary and not an adverse possession; and if that be so, they were unquestionably out of time in bringing their suit, which ought to be dismissed on that ground. This being their view of the case, their Lordships do not think it necessary to express any strong opinion as to the genuineness of the defendants' deed. It is the less necessary to do so since the judgment of the High Court does not, as their Lordships understand it, positively affirm that the deed was genuine. It assumes, no doubt, as their Lordships must assume, that in some way or another, and by virtue of some act of his grandmother, Moidin came into possession of this property on his own account and for his own benefit. And their Lordships may observe that that view of the case is corroborated, not only by the acts which he did, but by the transfer to him, which is admitted, of the original sunnud, and the deed of partition forming the title to the estate. Mr. Leith, indeed, has endeavoured to explain that possession by attributing it to his character as an agent. But, in their Lordships' opinion, it is far more reasonable to suppose that, if the plaintiffs had been the true proprietors of the estate, they would, in accordance with native habits, have kept their title-deeds in the recesses of the zenana, and would not have entrusted them to a mere manager. And if this was likely to happen under ordinary circumstances, *à fortiori* it would have happened in a case in which, according to the evidence for the plaintiffs, the management of this property was, by family-custom, vested in the females of the family.

On the whole, then, it appears to their Lordships that the judgment of the High Court was correct, and they must accordingly humbly advise Her Majesty to dismiss this appeal with costs.

The 20th February 1871.

Present:

Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Joseph Napier, Lord Justice James, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

Contract—Consideration—Nullity.

*On Appeal from the High Court at Calcutta.**

Guthrie

versus

Abool Mozuffer Nooroodin Ahmed.

In a case in which the plaintiff alleges that he agreed to sign, and that he executed a deed of sale for a consideration of a sum of money, in consequence of pressure put upon him, and in order to get back certain papers, &c., of his, which had been abstracted by the defendant and his servants, he cannot, whether under the English or Mahomedan Law, or under the general rule of equity and good conscience, be entitled to treat the deed as a mere nullity, and be allowed both to avoid the contract and to retain the money.

THIS appeal is against two decrees which have been made in a suit instituted in December 1862 by one Cazee Nusseeroollah to recover possession of certain lands with mesne-profits, and to set aside a deed of sale purporting to have been executed by him on the 11th of October 1855, in consideration of 4,000 rupees, to one Mr. Harry Inglis.

The suit was brought against the widow and representative of Mr. Inglis, who died about the beginning of 1861. The Judge of Zillah Sylhet made a decree in favor of the plaintiff on the 13th of December 1862, and his decree was affirmed by the High Court of Calcutta on the 30th November 1863. Both plaintiff and defendant have since died, and they are represented—the former by the respondents, the latter by the appellants on the record.

The issues settled in the cause are thus stated at page 171 of the Appendix:—

1. Did plaintiff voluntarily, and on receipt of the sum set forth in the kobalah, referred to in the plaint, execute to Mr. Inglis the deed in question, or was the same forcibly taken from him by the latter?

2. In the event of the kobalah being proved to be *bona fide* executed for value received, in that case is defendant in possession of only the talooks therein specified, or has she, in addition, taken possession of other seegga lands in addition to that appertaining to the talooks?

It appears, therefore, that besides the principal question as to the validity of the conveyance impeached, there was a subsidiary question as to the extent and description of the lands held by the defendant under colour of it.

It will be convenient in the first instance shortly to consider what in September 1855 was the position of the parties to the transaction and their relation to each other.

The Cazee was a native landholder, and also a Mahomedan holding an office in the Court of the Judge of Sylhet. He had acquired this property in 1844. Mr. Inglis was a European, resident at Cherra Poonjee, and engaged in various mercantile speculations, some of which, it may be presumed, rendered the possession of this particular land desirable to him. He had been in possession of it under a peishgee lease granted to him by the Cazee, which in terms expired in August 1855; but he contended that, by virtue of an instrument subsequently executed by the Cazee for securing a further advance of 200 rupees, he was entitled to retain possession until the whole of what was due to him had been paid off. The Cazee, on the other hand, treating the interest of Mr. Inglis as determined, had, on the 16th of August 1855, granted a lease of the lands for four years to one Mr. Sweetland, as agent for Moran and Co., a European firm which seems to have been rivals in trade of Mr. Inglis. The result was probably a state of things not unfrequent in India, *viz.*, that in which two European speculators are striving in competition with each other to obtain land from a native proprietor, and the native is playing fast and loose with both of them. On the 10th of Assin 1262, B. S., corresponding with the 24th September 1855, Mr. Inglis's agent presented a petition in the Magistrate's Court, stating his master's title to the land and the lease to Sweetland, and praying for the intervention of the Magistrate on the ground of an apprehended affray. And, on the preceding day, the Cazee had filed a petition in the Judge's Court, stating the loss of his boat containing his official and private seals, his register book, and other property; and insinuating that they had been abstracted

* From the judgment of Phear and Kemp, JJ., in Regular Appeal No. 636 of 1862, decided 30th November 1863.

and concealed by the contrivance and machinations of the amlah of Inglis, resident at a place called Chattuck. This petition did not conclude with any prayer for relief, but ends with this statement: "I, by way of precaution, submit this petition reporting the matter as stated, and am engaged in search of the property. I will submit a detailed account of whatever may come to light hereafter." So stood things immediately before the execution of the deed of sale. In speaking of what next occurred, it will be convenient, when a date is mentioned, to use the Hindoo month Assin, which covers the whole of the transactions.

The deed of sale was executed on the 26th of Assin at Chattuck in the house of one Brijomohun, the dewan or native manager of Mr. Inglis at that place.

On the following day, the 27th of Assin, the Cazee filed a petition in the Magistrate's Court, which contained the following statement of the circumstances under which, as he alleged, the deed had been extorted from him.

On the 3rd of Assin he left Sylhet in a boat, taking with him his official and private seals, his registry book, two gold mohurs, &c. On the way he received information of the loss of an elephant from his zemindaree at Pharrar Poonjee, and in order to seek for and trace out the elephant, he went to that place, which he reached on the 6th of Assin. He met there one Dhuneeram Doss, an agent of Mr. Inglis, who, after welcoming him with news of the recovery of the elephant, took him to his lodging, and gave him betel and tobacco. On his return to the ghaut, he found his boat and property gone. On this Dhuneeram took him back to his lodging, and promised to find the boat, but returned in the evening with 40 or 50 armed khasheas, who ultimately were reinforced by 400 or 500 clubmen. His companions were arrested, imprisoned, beaten, and oppressed. He himself was told that Mr. Inglis was very angry with him for having granted the lease to Mr. Sweetland, and that there was no chance of his saving his life unless he would sell the property to Mr. Inglis. On the next day Dhuneeram Doss again visited him, and told him that, unless he agreed to sell the property, he would not get back his boat and property, nor would he be able to save his honour. Under this pressure, he promised that, after his return home, he would, "in some way or another, get back the lease from Sweetland, and sell to Mr. Harry." He then returned home in another boat, and presented his petition of the 9th Assin in the Judge's Court. Some days afterwards, he again left Sylhet in the company of Biddyanund Raj, the mookhtear of Inglis, went to Chattuck, where he fell into the hands of Dhuneeram Doss and Brojomohun Dewanjee and others, who told him that, unless he would sell the mehal to Mr. Harry, and receive back his property, he would not be able to recover the latter, or return home without risking his life and honour. They kept him under restraint for four or five days, and finally, on the 26th of Assin, compelled him to put his signature to the deed of sale, on which they had already put the impression of his private seal. They then returned his property with some slight exceptions, and released him from confinement. After detailing all these outrages, the petition prayed the Magistrate to cause a local investigation to be held; to have the houses of the parties implicated searched for the property said to be missing; to call for and consider the forged deed of sale which they had thus forcibly got signed, and to issue an order suspending its registration. The Magistrate, on the 19th of October 1855, made an order for a local investigation by the Darogahs therein named.

In the other proceedings which followed on the execution of the deed there seems to have been some delay, which is probably to be accounted for by the fact that at that season all the offices were closed for the Doorga Poojah holidays.

On the 14th of November 1855, the deed was registered on the appearance of Biddyanund Rai, describing himself as the mookhtear of the party executing, and on the usual evidence of execution. By a petition presented on the following day, the Cazee protested against the registration.

On the 18th December 1855, the Magistrate, pronouncing it to be one of the grossest cases that had ever come before him, dismissed the Cazee's complaint, and by another and substantive proceeding fined him 200 rupees for having brought a false charge. The first of these orders was affirmed; the latter was reversed on appeal by the Zillah Judge on the 23rd January 1856.

That the Cazee should, after this, have delayed to bring the present suit for nearly six years, is a circumstance which, if unaccounted for, would raise a strong inference against the truth of his case. But this delay is in some measure explained by the interme-

diate litigation which took place touching the lease to Mr. Sweetland, and which lasted until May 1861. In the course of that litigation to which the Cazee, seeking to get the benefit of an alleged ekrar, as well as Inglis and the persons claiming under Sweetland were parties, the validity of the deed of sale of the 11th October 1855 came incidentally in question, and was affirmed by the decree of the Principal Sudder Ameen of the 14th of May 1861.

Their Lordships now proceed to consider the case made by the Cazee in the present suit, and the evidence by which it is supported. He has discarded the whole story of the violence to which, as he alleged before the Magistrate, he was subjected on the 6th or 7th of Assin. It was, indeed, incredible that one on whom such outrages had been perpetrated should return a few days afterwards to perform the promise which had been extorted from him, and place himself again in the power of those who had maltreated him. Moreover, the fact that personal violence was offered to him on that occasion was inconsistent with the statements in his petition of the 9th of Assin. He does not, however, recommend himself to credit by throwing over the more improbable portions of a story which had been judicially declared to be false, in order to make the rest more plausible. His case in this suit is that the adherents of Inglis led astray the elephant; that having thereby brought him to Pharrar Poonjee, they (about the 6th of Assin) concealed his boat and the property therein; that afterwards, and in order to get his chattels returned, he was induced to go to Chattuck, where, on the 26th of Assin, the creatures of Inglis shut him up, and fraudulently having got a deed of sale drawn up in respect of the talooks desired him to sign it; that although he had refused to do so, yet being well aware that there was no chance of saving his life and reputation unless he attached his signature thereto, he signed and left it, and proceeding to the Criminal Court lodged a complaint which had been dismissed. The gist of his case, therefore, is still duress, not only of goods, but of person—personal restraint and danger to his life and reputation. And, accordingly, the latter part of the first of the settled issues was as above stated—"Was the deed forcibly taken from him by Mr. Inglis?"

The decrees under appeal must be taken to find this issue in favour of the plaintiff; and either to rule that, in consequence of the violence done to him, he was entitled to treat the deed as a nullity, and to recover the lands without returning the consideration-mon or to negative the fact that the alleged co sideration of 4,000 rupees was paid to hi They do not in terms find whether he d or did not receive that sum.

That the money was, in fact, paid by Ingli people, and received by the Cazee, their Lo ships on the evidence have no doubt. Th payment is sworn to by the defendants' wi nesses, and they are confirmed by at lea three of the plaintiff's witnesses, *viz.*, Gan Buksh, Gholam Hossein, and Kumuruddi who all admit that the money reach the Cazee's boat. In his earlier depositi before the Magistrate, Golam Hossein admi this fact even more explicitly, and also h own participation in counting the mone Nor does the Cazee anywhere expressly de that he received the money. From the M gistrate's order it appears that on the inves gation of his complaint he did not dispute, indeed he did not expressly admit, the pa ment of the 4,000 rupees.

Again, their Lordships are of opinion, n only that the evidence in the cause falls ve far short of proof that the Cazee was subject to personal violence of the nature and degre stated in the plaint, but that it is insufficie to warrant the general conclusion that th deed was forcibly taken from him. It appea from the testimony of the more credible wi nesses produced by him, *viz.*, Gholam Hosse and Kumuruddee, that so far from being "sh up," he lived two days or more, during whic the negotiation was going on, on board his boat, which was lying off the ghaut at Chattuck that he passed freely from his boat to an from the house of Brijomohun, the dewan and that he was in communication with jemadar of police, who would doubtless hav protected him had his liberty been threaten These witnesses further admit that, on the f day of the negotiation, and before there any show of personal violence, he agreed grant to Mr. Inglis a permanent lease of land, though he refused to grant a putn The earlier deposition of Gholam Mahom which, as made *recente facto*, is far m trustworthy than the testimony given by h in this suit, contains an admission that, a two days' negotiations, and before going the house of Brijomohun for the last time the 26th of Assin, the Cazee had agreed dispose of the mehal for the sum of 4,0 rupees." It further admits that he sign the deed, and handed it to Kumuruddee to sealed. The only pressure to which t deposition, if taken to be true throughou shows that the Cazee yielded was the f that, unless he signed, he would not

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The 10th July 1867.

Present:

rd Cairns, Sir James W. Colvile, Sir Edward Vaughan Williams, Sir Richard Torin Kindersley, and Sir Lawrence Peel.

nitation—Suit—Ex-King of Delhi—Government of India—Bond—Interest.

Appeal from the Judicial Commissioner of the Punjab.

Narain Doss

versus

The Estate of the Ex-King of Delhi.

he Government of India, who took upon themselves ay debts due against the estate of the Ex-King of i out of the assets of the estate of the Ex-King, are led to avail themselves of the Statute of Limitations suit brought against the estate; but if a suit could y, and in equity and conscience, be substantiated nst the Ex-King, it ought to be allowed before the ernment officers, irrespective of technical difficulties h might have attended legal proceedings against the g during his sovereignty.

here, in a previous suit on a bond, which suit was on account of want of jurisdiction, the plaintiff sued specific sum and for interest as from a certain date, as declared in a subsequent suit instituted by him e same bond entitled to interest on the bond, only the date from which he sued for it in the first suit to ate of the present decree of the Judicial Commit-

n the peculiar circumstances of a case this description, in which the Government of India takes upon itself to pay out of the assets of the Ex-King of Delhi such claims as can be established against the Ex-King, their Lordships are of opinion that the Government does no more than what is incumbent upon it, when it narrowly and jealously scrutinizes claims which are made; it being within the experience of all, that where the claim is against, not the person who originally contracted the debt, but those who have taken upon themselves the duty of satisfying it, exaggerated, and sometimes unfounded, demands come to be made. Their Lordships also think that, if in those circumstances a claim were made which was found to be barred by the letter of any regulation or statute of limitations, the Government of India might well say that they had not taken upon themselves to provide for the payment of State demands, and that they were entitled to the benefit of any rule of limitation of that kind. Subject, however, to these observations, their Lordships think that any claim which justly and fairly, in equity and conscience, could be made and substantiated against the Ex-King is a claim to be allowed in the investigation which the Government has instituted before its judicial officers, irrespective of technical difficulties which migh, have attended legal proceedings against the King during his sovereignty, leaving of course, the question of the payment of that claim when established to be dealt with in reference to the assets out of which the payment is to be made.

Now, as to the bond upon which the claim is made in this case, their Lordships think that the evidence establishes, to their perfect satisfaction, as it appears to have established to the satisfaction of the various Judges below, the *factum* and the existence of the bond; and they conceive that no imputation

can successfully be made against the bond as an instrument in the first instance executed by the Ex-King. Their Lordships think that, with regard to the regulation as to limitation of actions, it does not apply to the present case, because the claim is made, in their opinion, within the period actually allowed by the regulation; and even if there were any doubt as to that, there is amply sufficient reason, from the position of the Ex-King, to account for an action not having been maintained against him within the period prescribed by the rule.

Then arises the question whether the whole amount of principal originally due upon the bond remains due? No evidence appears to have been adduced tending to show any payment on account of principal.

The officer of the Ex-King, who was examined, by his evidence confirms that which is alleged by the appellant, *viz.*, that the whole sums remain due, and that nothing has been paid on account of principal. The witness who was last examined, and who produced the documents which passed between the King and Colonel Skinner, also by his evidence tends to show that the only payments which were made were the payments through Colonel Skinner—payments which, by the very calculation and addition of them, would show that nothing could have been paid on account of principal.

It is said, however, that in the year 1852, when an action was attempted to be maintained against the Ex-King in the Court of Delhi, an action which was defeated by the plea of want of jurisdiction, the claim made was a claim for Rs. 36,000 alone. We have not got the proceedings or the documents in that action. We have the evidence of the appellant, who states that what was claimed in that action was the sum of Rs. 36,000. But their Lordships see no reason to doubt that, if the claim in that action was upon the face of it described as a claim for Rs. 36,000 that Rs. 36,000 was nothing more than a short and compendious mode of stating the principal sum due upon the bond. The Lordships, however, finding that the claim in the action of 1852 was for this sum of Rs. 36,000, and finding also that in the detail of the claim in the present case the principal is taken at that amount, as on the 1st of January 1852, and interest claimed from the 1st of January 1852 only, are of opinion that, while the appellant is entitled in the present proceedings to recover the amount of the principal of his bond, he must be content to take his interest as from the 1st of January 1852 until the present time.

Their Lordships, therefore, will humbly recommend to Her Majesty that the decree appealed from should be reversed, and that the appellant should be declared to have established his claim for the principal sum appearing on the face of the bond, with interest from the date that has been mentioned, together with the costs of this litigation in the Courts below, and that he is also entitled to the costs of this appeal.

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